

Hafa Adai!

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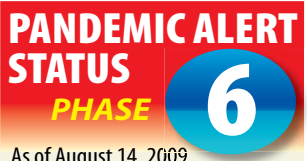
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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Do you believe Russian and Chinese tourists are essential to the survival of the CNMI's tourism industry?

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to cast your vote.



As of August 14, 2009

Phase 6: The pandemic phase, is an indication that a global pandemic is underway.

For more information about the H1N1 flu, contact DPH at 236-8797, Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm, 234-8950 during after hours, e-mail cnmiphoe@gmail.com, or visit www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/.

Source: CNMI Department of Public Health, World Health Organization

INSIDE



New Champ

IBF flyweight champion Nonito Donaire takes the next step toward an American dream.

MAHARLIKA...Page 14



Les Paul, 94

Les Paul, the guitar virtuoso and inventor who revolutionized music and created rock 'n' roll, has died.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 20

DPH: Dialysis center 98 pct. ready for Oct. opening. **PAGE 2**
NMI gets over \$2.9M for various water projects. **PAGE 5**

Fund withdrew \$38.1M from investments in 10 months

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

The NMI Retirement Fund recorded a total of \$38.1 million withdrawals from its

investments in the first 10 months of this fiscal year, according to the Fund's latest financial data.

In July alone, the agency drew down \$3.9 million from its investments to fi-

nance its operating activities, said Fund comptroller David Demapan in his report to the Fund's board of trustees

The board had authorized the withdrawal of up to \$45 million from its in-

vestments in Fiscal Year 2009 to pay for the Fund's pension obligation to members.

"As of July 31, \$38.1 million has [al-

See **FUND** on Page 4

Tainted Chinese drywall imported to Saipan

Feds, CNMI consumer counsel begin probe

ON THE NET

<http://www.cpsc.gov/info/drywall/index.html>

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
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REPORTER

Saipan, Guam and American Samoa received 28,778 sheets of imported Chinese drywall in 2006, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission said in a report as it investigates the use of tainted Chinese drywall that has been linked to 810 incident reports since July.

Tainted Chinese drywall has been tied to corrosion of metal components, foil smells and complaints by homeowners of health issues, including headaches, respiratory problems and nosebleeds. Complaints about the tainted product first surfaced in Florida.

CNMI consumer counsel Mike Ernest said the matter is being taken seriously but added that his office is merely beginning its investigation.

"For the time being, consumers who have recently remodeled using drywall imported from China should be aware of and report noxious odors coming from drywall, the corrosion of metal objects in

See **TAINTED** on Page 4



ALL EARS

Senate legal counsel Antonio S. Cabrera, seated, shares his opinion with senators on House Bill 16-208, which seeks to waive the two-year work experience for nonresident nursing graduates of Northern Marianas College seeking employment in private medical clinics, during a session break yesterday morning. By a vote of 9-0, the Senate confirmed the nomination of Edward T. Buckingham to the CNMI attorney general position. In the photo are, from left standing, Senate Floor Leader Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian), Sen. Paul Manglona (R-Rota), former Senate legal counsel and now CNMI consumer counsel Mike Ernest, Senate President Pete P. Reyes (R-Saipan), and Sen. Paterno S. Hocog (R-Rota). Sen. Maria "Frica" Pangelinan (D-Saipan) is seated right.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Senate confirms Buckingham as AG

Oath-taking set for Monday

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
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REPORTER

By Monday the CNMI will have a new attorney general when Gov. Benigno R. Fitial swears in Edward T. Buckingham, whose nomination was confirmed by the Senate yesterday on a 9-0 vote.

"I'm thankful for the Senate for their vote. I'll do my best to serve the people of the Commonwealth," Buckingham said in

See **SENATE** on Page 4



Edward T. Buckingham poses with his wife Pam after the Senate confirmed his nomination to the CNMI attorney general position yesterday morning.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Local

DPH: Dialysis center 98 pct. ready for Oct. opening

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Acting Public Health Secretary Pete Untalan said the newly built dialysis center at the Commonwealth Health Center is now 98 percent ready for its scheduled grand opening in October.

"This is as far as the infrastructure is concerned," Untalan said during a briefing with reporters yesterday.

A nephrologist (kidney doctor) will be arriving on Sept. 23 but will stay for only two and a half months. DPH hopes, however, to convince the doctor to stay for a longer period.

Untalan said they have improved the water system since they started working on the problem in June. The last test was done early this month and the result was negative for contamination.

Untalan said the contractor is set to ship within five weeks three new

dialysis machines, in addition to the existing equipment.

He said patients could check the dialysis center and they will find a beautiful facility.

"But it's a shame that we have not used it. We are looking for a positive response though. We can assure the public that we are moving forward," Untalan said.

There are currently 96 patients on dialysis in the CNMI.

Untalan said once the new center is open, it will operate in two shifts only—one in the morning and one in the afternoon.

DPH will be meeting next week to address the requirements for Medicare.

Untalan said DPH is also dealing with other issues before the opening of the center like personnel needs or technical matters.

"We are doing our best in the hiring process," he said.

A consultant from Guam is set to come and help with some of these issues, he added.

The dialysis center has been operating since April this year without a permanent kidney doctor to attend to those who are undergoing hemodialysis. A kidney specialist in Guam gives advice through phone.

In June, the government filed in federal court a \$10 million damage suit against one of the country's top engineering and architectural design firms for the defective design of the \$22 million federally funded dialysis center.

The government said the design had been deemed defective beyond reasonably acceptable potential deficiencies such as failure to meet applicable and customarily accepted code requirements, earthquake stress requirements and other design standards ordinarily expected to exist in the quality of construction for a health center.

Bangladeshi community to mark 34th death anniversary of nation's founder

Some 200 Bangladesh nationals here on Saipan are expected to join the offering of prayers for their nation's founder as they commemorate his 34th death anniversary today.

Rakibul Islam Minto, coordinator of the Bangladesh Awami League Community in the CNMI, said the prayer offering for Sheikh Mujibur Rahman would start at 8:30pm at the Garapan mosque, the Muslims' prayer center on Saipan.

Like in previous years, the Awami League initiates the prayer gathering to bring a message of peace and unity to all Bangladeshis.

"We are inviting the public to join us," Minto said.

He said that Rahman initiated programs to alleviate poverty in their country.

Rahman was the first president of Bangladesh, known for his leader-

ship in the struggle to end ethnic and institutional discrimination of the Bengalis, then still under the jurisdiction of East Pakistan.

On Aug. 15, 1975, Rahman and his family members were assassinated during a military coup after only seven months in office.

He is one of the founding leaders of the Awami League to fight for East Pakistan's independence.

His immense popularity led to his imprisonment in West Pakistan. He was released in 1972 and became a prime minister of the newly created nation of Bangladesh.

His effort to normalize relations with Pakistan was short-lived, touched off by a group of army officers who allegedly carried out the assassination during a military coup. (Nazario Rodriguez Jr.)

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Garment trust fund still accepting repatriation requests

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Garment Workers Trust Fund continues to entertain and approve requests of former garment workers to repatriate them to their home countries, according to Garment Workers Trust Fund chair Timothy H. Bellas.

In a letter to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial on Thursday, Bellas said the repatriation of stranded guest workers has always been one of the stated intents of the settlement agreement in the class action against CNMI garment manufacturers and retailers.

Bellas said repatriation was also a mandate of the former Garment Oversight Board, which he also previously chaired.

"However, in an effort to fulfill our role as the trustees, we have asked that the CNMI Labor Department to verify that there are no funds available either from the employer, the bonding company or the CNMI Account that is supposed to be earmarked for repatriation purposes," he said.

'One-time pay differential addressed concerns of frozen teachers'

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan says the concerns of frozen teachers have long been acted upon by the Board of Education when it authorized the Public School System to provide a one-time pay differential for them three years ago.

Sablan defined "frozen" as those employees who have reached step 12 of the system's pay scale and could not be given an additional step because they are receiving the maximum salary being offered by the system.

"Teachers who were frozen back in 2006 and who passed both Praxis [tests] were given a one-time pay differential by PSS," Sablan told *Saipan Tribune*, stressing that the issue of frozen teachers has long been resolved.

Sablan estimates that there are only a few teachers who are considered frozen and were covered by the incentive.

"There may be more people who say they are frozen. All they need to do is work with the human resource office and show proof that they passed both Praxis tests...and surely they will be given the one-time pay incentive that was provided by the board," the commissioner said.

Sablan admitted that the issue about "frozen" teachers keeps haunting the system.

"I hope this makes it clear [to everyone] that the concern has been resolved in 2006," she said.

The Education Board approved in 2006 the PSS highly qualified teachers compensation plan, where a maximum of \$47,000 is offered to those who will meet the maximum requirements set by the board.

"Anyone who say they are frozen at \$43,000 or \$47,000...

Bellas said the trustees believe this certification is necessary to trigger the use of the funds for humanitarian purposes to pay for the repatriation of former garment workers.

Bellas said he also wants to correct a possible misconception about the disposition of the trust funds as they relate to repatriation.

Bellas discussed the repatriation issue in his response to Fitial's request Wednesday for the trust fund to reconsider its decision not to provide compensation to former garment workers who have prevailed in their labor cases but who have not been paid because both the employer and the bonding company have gone out of business.

Fitial said "if the trust fund can make a donation to a charity, then it would seem also possible for the trust fund to make a donation to each qualified worker."

The governor said a distribution from the trust fund to each worker with proven claims that remain unpaid seems the best

the only thing they need to do is submit their credentials and proof that they passed the Praxis tests," she said.

Besides this one-time incentive, PSS does not offer or will not adjust its pay scale to accommodate a next step pay level.

PSS reported in 2006 that 25 individuals classified by the system as frozen teachers benefited from the 5-percent wage bonus, a \$2,300 one-time lump sum payment.

The intent of the board's decision in 2006 was to "reward, keep, and encourage" its workforce to continue serving public schools.

Sablan told *Saipan Tribune* that she is committed to enforcing among PSS personnel the

way to carry out the original intent of the litigation that created the fund.

In his response, Bellas said he already e-mailed a copy of Fitial's letter to the other two trustees—former Washington State Supreme Court chief justice Richard Guy and former California Supreme Court justice Cruz Reynoso—for their information and consideration.

The former Superior Court judge said the trustees have a meeting next month where they will review the pending 700 plus applications for assistance that they have received.

He said he will place Fitial's letter at the beginning of their agenda for consideration and a decision by the full of panel of trustees.

Bellas said if the trustees decide to reverse their prior decision on the matter, U.S. District Court judge Alex Munson will also have to approve it before the funds can be used according to Fitial's request.

The former Garment Oversight

highly qualified teachers' mandate as this is a call to meet the standards and expectations for high student performance.

Under the No Child Left Behind Act, public schools are required to employ highly qualified classroom teachers. PSS has until July 31, 2011, to comply with this mandate.

The CNMI Board of Education established three requirements to meet this qualification—Praxis tests, valid teaching certificates, and a degree holder.

Teacher's compensation in the CNMI is based on how they comply with these requirements. At present, 68 percent of PSS employees are deemed highly qualified.

Board established the trust fund. The board was set up pursuant to the \$20-million settlement agreement in the class action against the garment industry.

The trust fund has been receiving a flood of letters from former garment workers who want a share in the \$600,000 leftover

funds intended to assist garment workers who are still on Saipan and are facing hardships due to their former employment.

The \$600,000 is the leftover money from the settlement agreement that didn't get distributed to former garment workers. The money is from the checks distributed to the workers that returned or were not cashed.

GWTF is accepting applications from garment workers who want to avail of the funding until today, Aug. 15, 2009.

Applicants need to send their applications either in Chinese or English to GWTF P.O. Box 505943 Saipan, MP 96950.

The remaining money from the \$600,000 will then be donated to a charity.

Villagomez appeals to 9th Circuit

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Former lieutenant governor Timothy P. Villagomez has lost hope the federal court will consider his motion for release pending appeal.

Villagomez, through counsel Leilani Lujan, withdrew yesterday in its entirety his motion for release pending appeal and filed instead an appeal to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

"Given the court's explicit predisposition to again deny a request by Mr. Villagomez for release pending appeal, a hearing on the matter plainly would be an exercise in futility," said Lujan in a declaration filed with the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

In her declaration, Lujan stated that prior to the Aug. 5 sentencing of Villagomez, the defense filed a motion for release pending appeal.

Lujan said that U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson summarily denied Villagomez's motion without a hearing of any kind

or without deferring the matter until sentencing.

She said that, during the sentencing proceedings, the defense informed the court that they would again be filing a motion for release pending appeal.

Lujan said they also asked that a hearing be set on either Aug. 14, 2009, or after Sept. 1, 2009.

She said Munson informed the defense that he would permit them at that moment to renew their previously denied motion for release pending appeal.

Lujan said Munson stated that he would consider the renewed motion filed on Aug. 5, 2009, and that he would hear arguments on that renewed motion.

More importantly, the lawyer said, Munson also stated that he would deny the renewed motion on the grounds stated in his order denying the previous motion for release pending appeal.

"Without conducting a hearing, the court informed the defense that though the court may have believed at one point that the issues presented in the defense's motion for new

trial were 'fairly debatable,' its research surrounding the defense's motion for a new trial convinced the court otherwise," Lujan said.

According to Munson, Lujan added, the issues were not fairly debatable.

Lujan said despite such court's prior indication to deny the motion, they still filed the motion last Aug. 6.

Former Commerce Secretary James A. Santos early this week filed a notice of appeal on his conviction and sentence for his role in the Rydlyme corruption scandal.

Last Aug. 5, Munson sentenced Villagomez to seven years and three months in prison for his role in the Rydlyme corruption scandal.

Munson sentenced James Santos and his wife Joaquina to six years and six months in prison each for their involvement in the scheme to defraud the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and the United States.

Villagomez and the Santos couple are temporarily free.

BEFORE THE COMMONWEALTH PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES
CORPORATION'S [CUC] LEAC RATE
AND OTHER ELECTRIC REGULATORY MATTERS

DOCKET 09-1

REVIEW OF CUC'S WATER AND
WASTEWATER RATES

DOCKET 09-2

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT at 1:00 p.m. on August 31, 2009, the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission [CPUC] will conduct a public hearing and regulatory workshop at the Senate Chamber in the Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building on Capitol Hill to receive evidence, argument, discussion and public comment on the following CUC regulatory matters in Dockets 09-1 and 09-2 and on such other regulatory matters as may arise.

On December 19, 2008, CPUC established a leveled energy adjustment clause [LEAC] by which it would set and adjust a semi-annual rate to enable CUC to recover its fuel and related expenses. By order dated April 2, 2009 CPUC established a LEAC rate of \$.20147 cents per kWh for the period April 3, 2009 through September 30, 2009. CPUC ordered that CUC use specific portions of this LEAC revenue only to increase its fuel inventory and to fund a locked box reserve for CPUC authorized generation enhancement activities. In its April 2009 order, CPUC directed that its regulatory consultant [Georgetown] recommend a LEAC rate, which would be established for the period October 1, 2009 through March 30, 2010. On August 10, 2009, Georgetown submitted its report, which is available for public inspection on the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's website www.saipanchamber.com. In its report, Georgetown recommends that for the six month period commencing October 1, 2009, the current LEAC rate of \$.20147 cents per kWh be increased to \$.22618 cents per kWh [a 12% increase] to reflect projected increases in oil prices. However, in its report, Georgetown states that CUC has violated CPUC's orders, which required that about \$5.2 million dollars of LEAC revenues, which will have accrued during the period January through September 2009, be deposited into a restricted bank account and used only for CPUC approved generation enhancement purposes. No funds have been deposited into the restricted account and CUC has also failed to file required accounting reports with CPUC regarding the status and use of these restricted funds. Georgetown advises that if CUC were required to use a portion of this unaccounted for revenue [about \$2.9 million dollars] to offset the projected fuel increase, then no increase to the existing LEAC rate would be necessary. In its report, Georgetown also states that about 20% of the energy produced by CUC's power plants is unaccounted for and is not shown in energy sales to its customers. A normal utility level of unaccounted for energy is in the range of 7%. Accordingly, ratepayers are paying a 13% premium for this unaccounted for energy. Georgetown recommends that CPUC initiate an investigation into this problem. At the August 31, 2009 public hearing, CPUC will receive a briefing from Georgetown regarding its LEAC report and will also receive testimony regarding an appropriate regulatory response to CUC's violation of CPUC orders concerning CUC's use and accounting of restricted LEAC revenues.

By amended petition dated May 22, 2009, CUC requested that CPUC review and approve a proposed preferred stock agreement between CUC and the Commonwealth Development Authority [CDA] under which \$177 million dollars in CUC financial obligations to CDA would be converted into \$45 million dollars of preferred stock. By report dated July 27, 2009, Georgetown has recommended that CPUC approve the transaction. This report is available for public inspection at the Chamber website mentioned above. At the August 31, 2009 public hearing, CPUC will receive a briefing from Georgetown regarding its report and recommendation.

Within the process under which the Commonwealth has petitioned for energy grants under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, CPUC has been requested to examine whether different or additional financial incentives are necessary to encourage CUC's electric customers to use energy more efficiently without raising the cost of conservation and increasing the cost to ratepayers of measurable, verifiable efficiency savings. By public notice issued on July 17, 2009, CPUC invited public comment and further directed that Georgetown examine and report on this matter. At the August 31, 2009 public hearing, CPUC will consider public comments and Georgetown's report, which is due on August 14, 2009 and will be available for public inspection on the Chamber website mentioned above.

By order dated April 2, 2009 in Docket 09-2 CPUC directed Georgetown and CUC to propose interim lifeline water and wastewater rates for low income customers. Pursuant to this order, Georgetown conducted a review and issued a report on August 8, 2009, which is available for public inspection on the Chamber website mentioned above. In the report, Georgetown recommends that the current water and wastewater rates, which are still 40% below CUC's cost, should serve as a surrogate interim lifeline rate pending further regulatory proceedings, which will consider how to fund the 40% shortfall. At the August 31, 2009 public hearing, CPUC will receive a briefing from Georgetown on this subject as well as its recommendations regarding the scope and process for a CPUC investigation of CUC revenue enhancement activities, which could mitigate the revenue shortfall.

At the August 31, 2009 public hearing, CPUC will welcome the public's attendance and comments at the conclusion of the hearing. Persons who desire to formally participate in the hearing pursuant to 4 CMC § 8409(j) should on or before August 25, 2009 file with CPUC at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce offices at the Family Building, Garapan Street, Garapan an application and offer of proof in accordance with § 8409(j) and CPUC Procedural Rule 11(c). Subsequent to the public hearing, CPUC will conduct a special business meeting at 5:00 p.m. on September 3, 2009 at the Garapan office of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce to consider and make decisions regarding matters considered at the public hearing. Further information about the public hearing and the public's right to participate may be obtained from CPUC Commissioner Kyle Calabrese at 670-233-7150.

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AUGUST 14-17, 2009

PDi

PACIFIC DEVELOPMENT INC.

Man sues LISS owners for alleged mistreatment

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A man is suing the owners of Ladera International School of Saipan in federal court for allegedly not paying his full wages and mistreating him during his employment with the school.

Hyun Suk Kim, also known as Arnold, sued ILC Corp., owner of LISS, ILC and LISS president Yong Nam Park, and ILC Corp. vice president and LISS administrator Sun Yun Kim, for human trafficking, unpaid minimum wage and overtime compensation, and fraud.

Hyun Suk Kim, through counsel Loren Sutton, asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to order the defendants to pay him \$600,000 in damages.

Saipan Tribune tried to obtain comments from the LISS owners yesterday but no one was available.

Sutton stated in the complaint that while Hyun Kim was in South Korea, Park and Sun Kim told him that they were opening a business on Saipan and that he could come and work for them

at a good salary.

Hyun Kim came to Saipan on Dec. 20, 2005. He worked for three days to set up LISS without a labor contract and while his immigration status was that of a tourist.

Sutton said Hyun Kim returned to Saipan in July 2006 to work with LISS

with no contract and still on tourist status.

Sutton said during the entire 21 months that he worked at LISS, he was paid only a total of \$900.

The lawyer said the plaintiff was unable to tolerate the poor treatment he was getting from Sun Kim, who is his cousin, and from Park, so he returned to Korea.

Sutton said the plaintiff was kept on

Saipan with threats that he would not be allowed to leave because of visa issues.

"The plaintiff was brought to Saipan under false pretenses. He was not a teacher and did not claim to have teaching experience," he said.

This fraud by the defendants, Sutton said, caused Hyun Kim to become a victim of involuntary servitude and of human trafficking.



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Kagman High School notice

Kagman High School will conduct an orientation for 9th graders (freshmen) on Thursday, Aug. 27, 2009, from 9:30am to 11:30am. For 10th graders (sophomores), it will be from 1pm to 3pm at the Kagman High School cafeteria. For 11th graders (juniors) and 12th graders (seniors), orientation will

be on Friday, Aug. 28, 2009, from 9:30am to 11:30am. For more information, call 237-3840 or 237-3832; fax 664-3788. **(PR)**

Kagman Saturday Flea Market today

Kagman's Saturday Flea Market will be held today, Aug. 15, 2009, at the Kagman Community Center's parking

lot. It will be held every government payday Saturday. You may only sell your used items. Tents will be provid-

ed. Interested sellers can call the Kagman Post Office at 256-POST for more info. **(PR)**

TAINTED

From Page 1

the home, and short-term health effects generally affecting the upper respiratory tract (including throat irritations, scratchy eyes, headaches and other symptoms that tend to clear up after some time in fresh air)," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

The consumer counsel has also made initial communication with CPSC, and Interior's Office of Insular Affairs, as well as with the CNMI Division of Environmental Quality on the matter, and expects to hear more information in the days ahead.

CPSC, in its August update on the investigation of imported drywall, said it has received approval from the Chinese government for an investigative

visit to China beginning Aug. 17. It has asked to visit several sites in China that it believes to be of interest.

The federal agency said it continues to analyze the information it received from consumers, builders, importers, manufacturers and suppliers of drywall to determine how much imported drywall is affected and where that drywall has been installed.

"To date, CPSC staff has confirmed 6,211,200 sheets of Chinese drywall were imported into the U.S., plus 28,778 sheets imported into Guam, Saipan, and American Samoa during 2006. The staff is continuing to verify more shipments," the agency said in its report.

CPSC said it has received 202 more incident reports related to Chinese drywall in July, raising the total to 810 reports.

It also has reports from two new states, Pennsylvania and South Carolina, bringing the total to 23 states and the District of Columbia. But majority of the reports continue to be from Florida, Louisiana and Virginia.

"The focus of the federal drywall team has remained on both pursuing the scientific bases of this problem through the studies outlined in the July report and tracing the chain of commerce of the drywall," the agency added.

It also said the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is investigating reports that radioactive phosphogypsum was used in some drywall. It expects those analyses will be completed later this month.

For more information about CPSC's Drywall Information Center, visit <http://www.cpsc.gov/info/drywall/index.html>.

SENATE

From Page 1

an interview after his confirmation.

Prior to the Senate session, senators held a closed-door meeting with Buckingham.

"If I'm nervous about anything, it's trying to do the best job I can. I think the senators are very clear about their support. I look forward to their support, and look forward to keeping their trust," he said when asked whether he was nervous prior to the Senate confirmation.

The governor sent the Senate his nomination of Buckingham on Wednesday. The Senate had 90 days to act on the governor's nomination for an attorney general.

However, barely a day after receiving Buckingham's nomination, key senators told *Saipan Tribune* that Buckingham's nomination will be acted on quickly and may be confirmed as early as Friday, which they did.

Fitial, in a statement, said he is pleased with the Senate's "swift" confirmation of his attorney general nomination.

"I am very happy to have finally found a highly qualified attorney willing to serve as the Commonwealth's attorney general with the Senate's complete support. I appreciate the strong bipartisan support extended to Mr. Buckingham. I expect Mr. Buckingham to capably manage the Office of the Attorney General with integrity and the continued support of the administration and Legislature, and the people

we were elected to represent," he said.

The governor also thanked Deputy Attorney General Gregory Baka for agreeing to temporarily serve as the CNMI's acting attorney general until a nomination could be confirmed by the Senate.

11 months without an attorney general

Senate President Pete P. Reyes (R-Saipan) said "11 months without an attorney general is an injustice to the people of the Commonwealth."

"We're grateful that Mr. Buckingham accepted the nomination considering that there's only a few months left [before the November election]," Reyes said, urging his colleagues to vote for the nominee's confirmation.

For almost 11 months, the CNMI has never had an attorney general since former Attorney General Matthew Gregory stepped down from his post in September 2008 to re-enter private practice.

Fitial has not submitted Baka's name to the Senate because, as deputy attorney general, Baka succeeded to the position of acting attorney general.

But the Senate has been vocal in their opposition to Baka, and Reyes earlier said he would use his influence to make sure Baka was not confirmed.

During the session, Reyes said many in the community wished to convey their verbal support for Buckingham's confirmation, among them Rep. Diego T. Benavente (R-Saipan), Saipan Municipal Council vice chair R.B. Camacho, and former and current counsels for the Legislature.

Senate Vice President Felix T. Mendiola also said he received requests from individuals for senators to act favorably on Buckingham's nomination.

When his name was called for his vote, Sen. Luis Crisostimo (D-Saipan) replied: "For the people of the CNMI, yes." All the other senators also voted yes.

The Senate adopted Standing Committee Report 16-68, recommending Buckingham's confirmation.

Among those who were at the Senate gallery to show their support for Buckingham were his wife Pam, Deputy Attorney General Gregory Baka who had been acting general since September, Assistant Attorney General Kevin Lynch, former Senate legal counsel Mike Ernest who is now consumer counsel, and Camacho.

Buckingham is one of the longest serving lawyers in the Office of the Attorney General and is one of the few at the office who has worked in both civil and criminal divisions.

Lynch is the longest serving lawyer in the OAG.

In an interview at the Senate gallery yesterday, Baka said he's happy about Buckingham's confirmation, pledging his support to him.

"I look forward to getting back in court. Sometimes when you have so much stuff and you're only temporary, you don't have the same ability to make needed changes that you would have as having that position permanently... I look forward to working with him. I worked hard to get him confirmed and it's great to have him with us," he added.

FUND

From Page 1

ready] been withdrawn from the investments," Demapan reported.

This means the remaining amount of the \$45 million the Fund is authorized to withdraw is just \$6.8 million.

Based on the current spending trend, Demapan said the Fund expects to save a million from the drawdown authorization by the end of the fiscal year on Sept. 30, 2009.

Documents obtained by *Saipan Tribune* show that the Fund withdrew \$4.9 million from its investments in October 2008; \$3.7 million in November; and \$4.4 million in December.

In January 2009, the drawdown amounted to \$4.1 million. In February this went down to \$3.6 million. In March, the board approved the drawdown of \$4.4 million to cover for all obligations to members and vendors.

Because of "positive" numbers in April, only \$1.9 million was withdrawn for the month's operation.

Also because of aggressive collec-

tions, the Fund only made a \$2.8 million withdrawal in May.

In June and July, drawdowns went up to \$4 million and \$3.9 million respectively.

According to the comptroller, the board had projected drawdowns in fiscal year 2009 to reach just \$3.7 million monthly.

'Investment status'

As of June 30 this year, the market value of the Fund's investments was at \$305.4 million.

Demapan disclosed that through June 2009, the Fund incurred a loss of \$41.6 million.

Of this amount, \$34.2 million came from "realized loss" that was mostly caused by drawdowns from the Fund's investment.

A total of \$13.9 million represents "unrealized loss," which means it was caused by market contractions.

The Fund's investments are tied up in money market, \$7.1 million; fixed income, \$87.6 million; common stocks, \$191 million; and hedge funds, \$18.3 million.

A few hours later, Baka sent the media a copy of his message to assistant attorneys general and others in the community about Buckingham's confirmation.

"After the AG's desk having been unoccupied for 10-1/2 months, it is great to have someone permanently assigned to that office. I have long looked forward to this day. Congratulations, Ed! I would also like to thank all of you for your strong support during my tenure as acting AG. We couldn't have made it over the past months without working together, and I hope that teamwork will be redoubled under Ed's leadership," he said.

Buckling down to work

Buckingham said his first order of business is to move to the Office of the Attorney General.

He said he will be working on some attorney general opinions that need to be issued.

"I'm going to begin reviewing the activities of all the members of the Attorney General's Office and also work with the agencies to see what kind of services they're getting, what kind of services they need, then reviewing that information with the governor so that we may work together to strengthen the performance of the Attorney General's Office," he said.

Reyes reiterated that Buckingham is someone the Senate and the public can work with, describing him as "very resourceful," "very humble," "knows how to listen" and "is very qualified for the job."

He said one of his first requests would

be a legal opinion on the measure he introduced in March, Senate Bill 16-51 SD1 or the "Attorney General Confirmation Act of 2009," clarifying the law that requires Senate confirmation.

Under his bill, if the governor or his designee does not submit the individual who has been appointed or is otherwise serving in an acting capacity or who has assumed the title of AG, acting AG, or interim AG within 30 days, the individual cannot serve in those positions for two years.

Prior to nominating Buckingham, Fitial had offered the position to at least four attorneys who declined the offer. Among them were lawyers Victorino Torres of Torres Brothers LLC and Teresa Kim, the current counsel for the lieutenant governor. The governor earlier said he would want to appoint a local attorney, but since his offer to local attorneys were declined, he turned to Buckingham.

Buckingham has been serving as an assistant attorney general since 2003. He has worked in both civil and criminal divisions, and has also held a key role spearheading the federal prison consent decree compliance. Buckingham also has served as counsel to the departments of Public Safety and Corrections, as well as counsel to the CNMI Board of Parole.

He has a bachelor's degree from the University of California, Berkeley, one of the top-ranked schools in the United States, where he graduated with honors. He earned his law degree from the University of Denver. He is admitted to practice law in Colorado, the CNMI, and the Federated States of Micronesia.

NMI gets over \$2.9M for various water projects

HONOLULU—The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has awarded \$2,930,700 in stimulus funds to the CNMI to finance many overdue projects intended to improve the islands' water supply.

The EPA said these projects are not just essential to protecting public health and the environment in the Commonwealth but they will also create jobs, boost local economies, and improve its aging water and wastewater infrastructure.

This new infusion of money will be provided the CNMI under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

"This remarkable opportunity to provide much-needed support for sustainable water and energy-efficient drinking water and

wastewater systems throughout the U.S. is unprecedented," said Laura Yoshii, acting Regional Administrator for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in the Pacific Southwest. "This funding will allow CNMI to address its highest water infrastructure priorities, protect human health and surface water quality, address climate change, and create critical green jobs as a foundation for a sustainable future."

The CNMI will receive \$1,101,700 for its wastewater construction program for the Sadog Tasi Wastewater Treatment Plant to enhance the management of wastewater

ter, significantly reducing energy usage and operation and maintenance costs. The CNMI also will receive \$1,829,000 to improve its drinking water system.

ON THE NET

■ <http://www.epa.gov/recovery>
■ Recovery.gov

An unprecedented \$6 billion dollars will be awarded to fund water

and wastewater infrastructure projects across the country under the Recovery Act in the form of low-interest loans, principal forgiveness and grants. At least 20 percent of the funds provided under the Recovery Act are to be used for green infrastructure, water and energy efficiency improvements and other environmentally innovative projects.

DCCA wants to build sports complex in Kobler village

By **NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.**
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs is currently developing a plan to erect a sports complex in Koblerville that would include a football stadium, soccer field, volleyball court, and a mini baseball field.

The funding source would be through the Community Development Block Grant, which provides communities with resources to address a wide range of unique community development needs.

Acting DCCA Secretary Melvin O. Faisao wrote Joshua Sasamoto, corporate director of the Northern Marianas Housing Corp, last Thursday, Aug. 13, to inform him of this plan and to ask for the requirements needed to secure the grant.

The project needs the approval of the housing corporation board.

Faisao explained that the predominant requirement is to develop a detailed plan that pro-

vides for and encourages citizens' participation.

"This integral process emphasizes participation by persons of low or moderate income, particularly residents of predominantly low- and moderate-income neighborhoods, slum or blighted areas, and areas in which the grantee proposes to use CDBG funds," Faisao said.

Grants for CDBG Insular Areas provide financial assistance, with financing options, for economic development, housing rehabilitation, public facilities rehabilitation, construction or installation for the benefit of low- to moderate-income persons, or to aid in the prevention of slums.

"This sports complex would be beneficial to the well-being of all members our communities, and may provide for sports tourism opportunities, with foreign sports teams holding training camps in the CNMI," Faisao said.

Faisao said the community also needs facilities like this to encourage the youth to be in-

involved in sports activities that would discourage them from delinquent activities.

"The prime focus of this project is to support our youth population and our general community with worthwhile recreational activities while providing a form of destination enhancement for our tourism industry via sports tourism," Faisao said.

He said this would support strong social and community values, while providing meaningful opportunities for economic growth and development.

Faisao said this project was actually in the works for a long time now.

He recalled that when he was still a member of the House of Representatives in 1999, he supported a bill to appropriate funds for the construction of a \$1.3 million sports complex in Koblerville.

He said the House passed the bill but it eventually died a natural death in the Senate.

"We just hope for the realization of this project this time," he said.

President Obama signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 on Feb. 17, 2009, and has directed that the Recovery Act be implement-

ed with unprecedented transparency and accountability. To that end, the American people can see how every dollar is being invested at Recovery.gov.

For information on EPA's implementation of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, visit <http://www.epa.gov/recovery>. **(PR-EPA)**

'Schools' consolidated grant increased by \$2.5M

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

The CNMI Public School System stands to receive an additional \$2.5 million under its yearly consolidated grant this fiscal year, according Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan.

Sablan, who recently met with U.S. Department of Education officials in the United States, said the additional fund will come from President Obama's stimulus monies, which are expected to be released soon.

Sablan said the money will be used to further develop the capabilities of public school teachers and counselors.

The goals, Sablan said, are to make sure that 80 percent of students at public schools are reading at or above their grade level this school year and scoring at the 50th percentile or higher on the Stanford Achievement Test by next school year. In 2014, PSS hopes to see 90 percent of its students scoring at proficient or above on the standards-based assessment.

The additional funding, Sablan said, would have a big impact on the quality of learning for CNMI students.

"It is a good amount of money that we don't have here in the CNMI...and so we're very excited because it is forthcoming," Sablan said, adding that approval of the revised ARRA application is expected soon.

PSS receives over \$9 million in consolidated grants every year.

Saipan Tribune learned that the additional \$2.5 million would be used to hold summer seminars for teachers, teacher aides, counselors, and school administrators for them to become fully certified and highly qualified.

About 67 percent of the current 492 PSS teachers are deemed highly qualified.

A portion of the additional money will also be used for the school leadership improvement programs, teacher academy capacity building, and school apprenticeship career building.

PSS also wants to allocate some funds to help the lowest performing schools become better.



WORKING FOR YOU

From right, senators Joseph Mendiola, Henry San Nicolas, Paterno Hocog, and Maria Frica Pangelinan look over some documents during yesterday's session on Capital Hill.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

FSA reminds signup deadline for 'non-insured' disaster assistance

MAITE, Guam—Tom Camacho, county executive director, is reminding ornamental nurseries and aquacultural producers that the deadline is Sept. 1, 2009 for the Non-Insured Disaster

Assistance Program coverage on 2010 Value-Loss Crops (Ornamental Nursery, Aquaculture, Turfgrass, Floriculture, etc.).

The NAP program is designed to cover losses due to damaging tropical storms and typhoons. The program covers loss of value in excess of 50 percent of the total value. The administrative fee per policy is \$250 per crop, per producer with a \$300

cap per county. NAP coverage does not begin until 30 days after your application is filed and the administrative fee has been paid. The administrative fee is non refundable.

Producers interested in obtaining NAP on their 2010 non-insurable crop acreage, should contact their local USDA Service Center before September 1st to complete an application," said Camacho.

"Producers who currently have NAP coverage or who are interested in coverage need to keep accurate records of their inventory and provide monthly

inventories to the Farm Service Agency annually, and promptly notify FSA when ever losses occur," said Camacho.

This deadline date also applies to producers who have a 2009 policy that expires on Sept. 30 and want to renew their coverage for the same value-loss crops in 2010.

Producers are encouraged to contact their local FSA office to obtain NAP coverage or for additional information on the Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program before the Sept. 1, 2009 deadline.

For more information about disaster programs implemented by FSA, visit www.fsa.usda.gov. **(USDA)**

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy birthday greetings to Darin Reyes who is celebrating his 24th birthday! We hope you enjoy your day! We love you and wish for many more birthdays to come! Greetings coming from your one and only sister and Evan Jay.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy birthday to Frances C. Agulto! Best wishes and many more to come! Greetings come from the Concepcion family!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy 2nd birthday to Yvannah Maria! Wishing you a very blessed day and may God bless you each and everyday.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Rapists in uniform

Rape is one of the oldest weapons of war, but until recently it was treated much like looting, as regrettable collateral damage rather than as a war crime. That may be because most victims are women, often second-class citizens in their societies. It may be that rape is overshadowed by massacres, although sexual assault often leads to death. Or perhaps it is because victors and vanquished alike commit rape. Hitler's army engaged in sexual violence, and as many as 2 million German women were abused by conquering Soviet troops after World War II. The Nuremberg tribunal did not prosecute sexual crimes.

Almost half a century later, according to the United Nations Development Fund for Women, an estimated 20,000 rapes were committed in the war in Bosnia, yet they resulted in only 27 convictions; 64,000 rapes in Sierra Leone yielded six convictions; and 500,000 rapes in Rwanda, eight convictions. But there has been a profound change in the way sexual violence is regarded in international law, from something bad soldiers do to a criminal act of war. In 1998, the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda declared rape an act of genocide, committed in that case with the purpose of destroying the Tutsi ethnic group. And a decade later, the U.N. Security Council adopted a resolution recognizing rape as a "tactic of warfare" that is a crime against humanity.

This week, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton used her formidable voice to protest sexual violence during a visit to eastern Congo, where an estimated 200,000 people have been abused in war in the last decade. In 2008 alone, the U.N. Population Fund recorded 16,000 cases, two-thirds of them adolescent girls and other children. The crimes include sexual enslavement, forced incest, gang rape in front of families and community members, sometimes followed by stabbing and shooting in the genitals. So common is the rape of women and children that combatants increasingly have turned to raping men as added humiliation. Although rebels commit their share of the violence, human rights activists blame government soldiers in a majority of recent cases and say the violence has increased dramatically since the start of a military offensive in January. And yet, this year and last, military courts have convicted just a handful of soldiers for sexual crimes. After meeting Congolese President Joseph Kabila, Clinton said, "We believe there should be no impunity for the sexual and gender-based violence committed by so many and that there must be arrests, prosecutions and punishments."

Clinton pledged \$17 million in new U.S. funding for victims of sexual violence, welcome aid for a horrific problem. She also offered the resources of the U.S. military's Africa command to advise on stopping further sexual assaults, but far more is needed on this front. The Congolese military must hold officers accountable for overseeing or turning a blind eye to rape. And Clinton must continue to highlight the issue until reality begins to catch up with international law.

(c) 2009, Los Angeles Times



Bringing the Swiss to account

For years, Swiss bankers have marketed themselves to the world's super-rich as information black holes. Put your money in a Swiss bank account, they whisper, and you can hide it from your government's tax collectors, to say nothing about a prying spouse, or ex-spouse, or inconvenient creditors. It's a brilliant marketing tactic. Swiss banks don't necessarily get better investment returns than banks in other countries, but they do offer one huge competitive advantage: the possibility of secret manipulation of money.

A settlement was announced Wednesday between the Swiss bank UBS, the Swiss government and the United States in the Internal Revenue Service's lawsuit to learn the names of thousands of American tax cheats with secret accounts at UBS. But until the details of the pact are made public, we can't know whether a real dent has been made in Swiss bank secrecy.

Selling bank secrecy has enabled Switzerland to move from an impoverished agricultural nation in the 19th century to a rich financial fortress in the 21st. But the world has paid—and is paying—an immense price for Switzerland's success.

Why is it that so many countries, including the U.S., can't collect taxes from large numbers of cheats? Why is it that petty tyrants can plunder their nations' treasuries with impunity? Or that drug lords can launder their funds without fear of discovery? Or that terrorists can move funds around the world so easily? It's because Swiss bankers—and their clones in Lichtenstein and other banking black holes—refuse to make information about secret accounts available to government investigators.

Of course, the Swiss deny it. They claim to be willing—even eager—to turn information over to foreign law enforcement officials as long as evidence of wrongdoing by a particular client is presented. But that's the rub. Without access to the information in the bank's records, it is usually impossible to find out whether wrongdoing is taking place. That's the Catch-22 of Swiss bank secrecy. That's why Congress finally required American banks and brokerage houses to report clients' earnings to the IRS. Without such a system, we learned that huge numbers of taxpayers will ignore their legal duty to report the income.

Even after the IRS caught UBS red-handed selling secret Swiss accounts in the U.S. to hundreds of American tax cheats, UBS refused to provide the names of 52,000 other American depositors so that the IRS could ensure that they are reporting their earnings.

The Swiss government came to the bank's defense. Switzerland told a federal judge in Miami, where the U.S. lawsuit was filed, that it would seize the information rather than allow UBS to comply with an IRS subpoena. The shabby drama that played out in a Mi-

By BURT NEUBORNE

Special to the Los Angeles Times

Neuborne, a professor at New York University School of Law and legal director of the Brennan Center for Justice, was the court-appointed lead counsel for Holocaust survivors in their claims against Swiss banks.



ami federal courtroom made one thing clear: Swiss bankers cannot manufacture bank secrecy on their own. They need active cooperation from the Swiss government designed to stymie legitimate efforts by other governments to obtain information needed to enforce their laws. Some rogue states export terrorism or drugs; Switzerland exports a virus—bank secrecy—that eats away at the fabric of law in the rest of the world.

Bank secrecy is Switzerland's most valuable national asset. Without it, Swiss banks would be forced to compete on a level playing field. Whenever Swiss bank secrecy is threatened, Switzerland buys off the challenger. When the European Union complained that tax evaders were using Swiss accounts to make a mockery of the income tax, the Swiss government agreed to have the banks make minimal lump-sum payments to European tax authorities rather than disclose the names of the depositors.

It's a bargain-basement way to buy your way out of real tax compliance. When Holocaust survivors complained that Swiss bank secrecy made it impossible to find thousands of bank accounts of deceased victims, Swiss banks settled the case in 1998 for \$1.25 billion rather than allow the victims to inspect their books.

The same scenario appears to be unfolding in Miami. The Swiss government has offered to have UBS maybe turn over a few thousand names when the known facts point to tax fraud, but it insists on preserving the general principle that Swiss banks are not obliged to turn over financial information to foreign government investigators in the absence of specific proof of wrongdoing. So far, the U.S. has talked tough, but the proof will be in the details of the settlement.

A huge amount is at stake. If Swiss bank secrecy can survive this debacle, the message to the tax cheats of the world will be clear: Swiss banks are open for business as usual. If, however, the IRS hangs tough, an equally important message will go out: Opening a Swiss bank account will no longer shield you from legitimate efforts by your government to obtain financial information needed to enforce the tax laws. It just might mean one less rogue state.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Is America through the worst of the recession?

Special to *The Washington Post*

The Post asked economists if they agreed with the Federal Reserve's statement Wednesday, following a better-than-expected employment report and brisk auto sales, that the economy is "leveling out."

DOUGLAS HOLTZ-EAKIN

Former director of the Congressional Budget Office; senior economic adviser to Sen. John McCain's presidential campaign

If America were populated only by economic statisticians (a frightening image) then the worst would be over. Reams of economic data support the notion that, in the words of the Federal Reserve, "the economy is leveling out." Unfortunately, the labor market remains very weak, unemployment is more likely to rise again than to fall, and real labor income is essentially flat. That combination offers little relief to U.S. households, which entered this recession highly indebted. Americans are facing an ongoing foreclosure crisis and have suffered losses on their investment portfolios. It is not surprising that consumer confidence remains weak.



At the same time, the federal budget is in disastrous shape, and the Fed's massive liquidity injections pose a risk of a significant uptick in inflation in the years to come. Americans face the real possibility that "recovery" will consist of paring spending to rebuild wealth, paying higher taxes and facing higher inflation. A new generation may be exposed to the frustrating coincidence of chronically high unemployment and rising prices. So the numbers will be better, but the American psyche will take longer to recover.

ALICE RIVLIN

Senior fellow at the Brookings Institution; founding director of the Congressional Budget Office; director of the Office of Management and Budget, 1994-96.

If you have lost your job, the worst may not be over for a long time. If you have a job, you may still lose it. The main reason for optimism is that the rapid deterioration of the economy has slowed down. Production and sales may even start increasing gradually in the next few months. For many businesses, the worst may be over. But don't expect a bounce. Scared consumers are hanging on to their cash, bemoaning the lost value of their houses and trying to reduce their debts. They won't rush back to the mall to buy things they don't absolutely need. Employers will be cautious about hiring until they are sure the recovery is robust, so unemployment will remain high for several years.

Public intervention has stabilized the big financial institutions, some of which are making substantial profits. To many this seems unfair, since it was the mistakes of those institutions that caused the crash. Unfair or not, a catastrophic financial meltdown was avoided. We'll have a long slog back to prosperity, but another Great Depression is not going to engulf us all.

RUDOLPH G. PENNER

Fellow at the Urban Institute



subdued. People are likely to remain unhappy until we reach past peaks in economic activity and employment. That will take a very long time: The unemployment rate will probably remain well above 9 percent all the way to the 2010 midterm elections.

That will make congressional Democrats very nervous. Some might call for a second stimulus plan. But I doubt one will pass. The majority's desire to appear proactive will be trumped by worries about an exploding federal debt. Moreover, whatever economists may believe, the public will probably decide that the first stimulus was not very effective.

MARK ZANDI

Chief economist at Moody's Economy.com

The Great Recession is finally giving way to an economic recovery. Driving this turn is the Federal Reserve's unprecedented actions, which have stabilized the financial system, and fiscal stimulus. It's no coincidence that the recession is ending just when the stimulus is providing its maximum economic benefit. Lower payroll taxes, checks to Social Security recipients and help to unemployed workers are buoying household spending. State and local governments have avoided more draconian budget cuts with checks from the feds. The "Cash for Clunkers" program has juiced up vehicle sales, and the housing tax credit has boosted home sales.

But while the economy is making its way back from the abyss, it will not come roaring back. The foreclosure crisis shows no letup, which means that house prices will fall further. Rising vacancy rates and weakening rents mean that hundreds of billions of dollars in commercial mortgage defaults are in the pipeline. And credit remains impaired as banks are anxious and securitization markets are frozen by the prospects of more loan losses and regulatory reform. While it is still premature to say for sure, odds are high that the economy may need another boost from policy-makers next year to ensure that the expansion takes full root.



Finding the middle ground between conviction, doubt

There's nothing more cutting edge than fundamentalism. The women swathed in veils in Piccadilly Circus, the "facts on the ground" settlers in Jerusalem, the values voters who never give an inch. They wrap themselves in tradition and rage at the godlessness of modernity, but ultimately they are products of the very modernity they hate.

Not that long ago it was the secularists who thought they were ahead of the curve, in the vanguard of progress. They wrapped themselves in the illusion that modernity would eradicate religion. But, as we all know by now, it did nothing of the sort. Indeed, it had the exact opposite effect.

That's because modernity, with its technologies that move people easily across the Earth and effortlessly send ideas into cyberspace, encourages diversity. Diversity creates choices. Choices create doubt. Too much doubt can lead to desperation.

In German, the words doubt—"Zweifel"—and desperation—"Verzweiflung"—both have "zwei"—two—as their linguistic stems, suggesting mutually exclusive options. Desperation can lead to the search for certainty. And, voila—embracing certainty is the cornerstone of fundamentalism.

If political ideology was the scourge of the 20th century, religious fundamentalism could be the greatest threat in the 21st. But how do we fight it? And is there any way to get beyond the narrow struggle between the true believers and the true nonbelievers? Is there a place in this battle for the majority of humans who are decidedly in between?

Those are some of the questions that sociologists Peter L. Berger and Anton C. Zijderveld ask in their new book, "In Praise of Doubt: How to Have Convictions Without Becoming a Fanatic." This is not yet another polemic arguing that religion is the source of all evil. Nor is it a simplistic homage to all-powerful reason. Rather, it's a serious attempt to explain how to find middle ground between conviction—religious and otherwise—and doubt.

It's not easy. Too much antifundamentalist rhetoric spreads the type of relativism that breeds more fundamentalists. That is,

challenging tradition softens absolutes, which is the beginning of relativism. That's liberating, until it isn't. If you no longer accept what was once taken for granted, you are burdened with the need to think it all through and come up with new or, at least, individual answers. And that burden can send people straight back to absolutes.

On top of that, while a modicum of uncertainty is healthy, the authors warn against "an excess of doubt," which can lead to paralysis. Even worse, to embrace the notion that all truth is relative, the



“Beliefs are necessary; they help “locate” individuals in the world and inform their responses to the challenges of life. At the same, uncertainty and doubt serve as a source of tolerance toward others’ firm convictions.”

authors argue, takes us close to schizophrenia, a condition characterized by the inability to decipher fantasy from reality.

The answer, according to Berger and Zijderveld, is yet another icon of modernity: balance. Paradoxically, you must have conviction and uncertainty simultaneously in order to ward off fundamentalism. Beliefs are necessary; they help "locate" individuals in the world and inform their responses to the challenges of life. At the same, uncertainty and doubt serve as a source of tolerance toward others' firm convictions.

By **GREGORY RODRIGUEZ**
Special to the Los Angeles Times

Rodriguez, a columnist for the Times' opinion pages, is director of the California Fellows Program at the New America Foundation. E-mail Rodriguez at grodriquez@latimescolumnists.com.



But how can you be firm in your convictions while allowing others to be firm in theirs? Berger and Zijderveld advocate for moderation, which makes a distinction between "core certainties" and more negotiable articles of any kind of faith—religious, political, cultural. For example, Christian theologians generally define the resurrection of Christ as a core belief. But the virgin birth or the story of Lazarus rising from the dead? Not so much. Citing the controversy over Islam in Europe, the authors suggest that objections to such traditional practices as genital mutilations or stonings are absolutely nonnegotiable, while the wearing of hijabs—kerchiefs—is.

The most important core certainty, and one found in most belief systems, is "do unto others ..."—the Golden Rule. It leaves enough wiggle room for your beliefs, my beliefs and their beliefs to coexist. And what makes it all work is the same thing that burdened us all to begin with: doubt. Berger and Zijderveld believe that doubt can serve as a type of psychic cushion between all our different certainties.






It turns out that liberal democracy—with its protections of individual rights—is the strongest guarantor of doubt. In fact, Berger and Zijderveld argue that doubt—especially as expressed in the idea of a loyal opposition—is at the heart of a democratic system.

That means that, in the end, President George W. Bush was right when he said that what the fundamentalists of al-Qaida hate most about us is our freedom. It also means that our democratic freedoms are our best weapons to fight back.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. Light and variable winds.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. Light and variable winds.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.
▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲89° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Showers	▲85 ▼77
Palau	Showers	▲86 ▼77
Yap	Partly Sunny	▲88 ▼77
Chuuk	Sunny	▲88 ▼78
Pohnpei	Showers	▲87 ▼73
Kosrae	Partly Sunny	▲87 ▼77
Majuro	Partly Sunny	▲85 ▼77

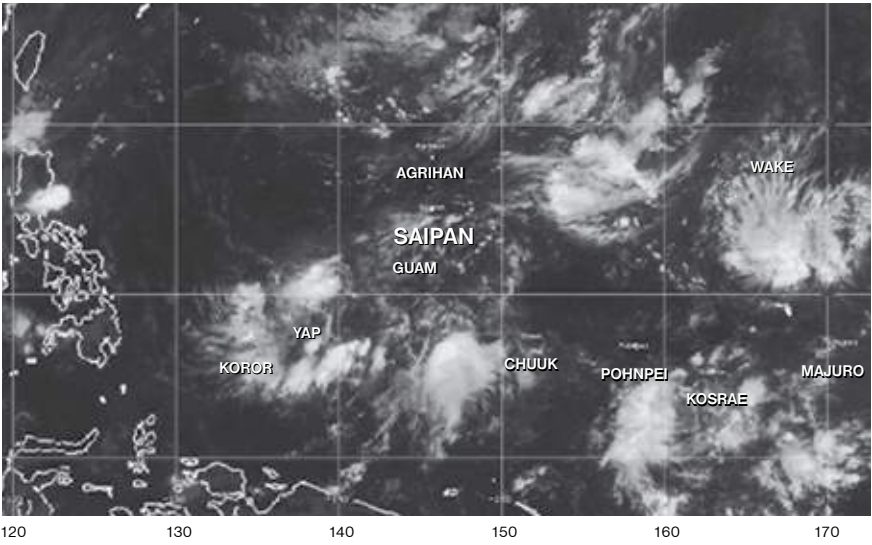
Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲60 ▼53
Beijing	Partly Sunny	▲93 ▼75
Hong Kong	Showers	▲90 ▼82
Honolulu	Cloudy	▲85 ▼76
London	Mostly Sunny	▲75 ▼61
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲78 ▼62
Manila	Thunderstorms	▲87 ▼78
Melbourne	Partly Sunny	▲72 ▼61
Miami	Thundershowers	▲90 ▼80
New York	Partly Sunny	▲87 ▼72
Osaka	Partly Sunny	▲81 ▼72
Paris	Sunny	▲87 ▼62
Pusan	Showers	▲82 ▼73
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲88 ▼67
Salem	Mostly Sunny	▲76 ▼50
San Francisco	Sunny	▲73 ▼56
Seoul	Sunny	▲91 ▼68
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲82 ▼70
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲89 ▼73

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
12:46 AM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
8:42 AM Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
4:20 PM Today	High Tide:	1.5 Feet
8:27 PM Today	Low Tide:	1.3 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, FRIDAY, AUGUST 14, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough extends eastward from Koror through a weak circulation east of Yap near 9N146E to a circulation north of Kwajalein near 13N167E. Scattered showers near are found on the western periphery of the circulation center within 70 miles of a line from 11N139E to 9N134E north of Yap and within 75 miles of a line from 4N136E to 7N142E south of Yap. Scattered showers are found further east along the trough axis between 7N and 5N from 145E to 148E. A surface trough well east of the Marianas extends southward from 17N154E to 13N155E. Scattered showers are located near the trough axis between 19N and 14N from 153E to 159N. Two circulations, one north of Kwajalein centered near 13N167E and the other northeast of Majuro centered near 13N178E, the remnants of Tropical Depression Maka are generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms within 100 miles of the circulation centers. A surface trough extending southward from 25N146E to near Asuncion Island combined with upper-level divergence associated with an upper-level low northwest of Wake Island is producing scattered showers between 24N and 20N from 145E to 162E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms south of Kosrae between 5N and the equator from 157E to 171E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:02 AM	6:41 PM
Sunday	6:03 AM	6:40 PM
Monday	6:03 AM	6:39 PM
Tuesday	6:03 AM	6:39 PM
Wednesday	6:03 AM	6:38 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	12:13 AM	1:43 PM
Sunday	1:11 AM	2:46 PM
Monday	2:15 AM	3:47 PM
Tuesday	3:21 AM	4:44 PM
Wednesday	4:27 AM	5:36 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- **ISLAND SNAPSHOTS**
Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- **BIRTHDAY GREETINGS**
A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- **BUSINESS**
Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- **SAMUT SARI**
Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- **TRAVELOGUE**
Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **COMMUNITY BRIEFS**

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

- For pictures:**
- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
 - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
 - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For announcements:**
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 21, 2009

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP) C09597 11:50am 12:25pm 1, 7	ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN C09598 3:15am 3:50am 5, 6 C09312 1:20pm 1:55pm 6
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM C09597 12:50pm 1:20pm 1, 7	GUAM-ROTA (ROP) C09598 2:10am 2:40am 5, 6 C09312 12:10pm 12:40pm 6
SAIPAN-GUAM C09317 4:20am 5:10am Daily C09313 8:30am 9:20am Daily C09597 11:50am 1:20pm 1, 7 via ROP C09601 12:30pm 1:20pm 4, 5 C09603 3:30pm 4:20pm Daily C09605 6:30pm 7:20pm Daily C09599 9:30pm 10:20pm Daily	GUAM-SAIPAN C09598 2:10am 3:50am 5, 6 via ROP C09316 2:20am 3:10am 1, 2, 3, 4, 7 C09596 7:00am 7:50am Daily C09600 10:20am 11:10am 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 C09312 12:10pm 1:55pm 6 via ROP C09602 2:00pm 2:50pm 1, 4, 5, 7 C09604 5:00pm 5:50pm Daily C09606 8:00pm 8:50pm Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT) C0941 5:30am 8:05am Daily NW99 6:05am 8:40am Daily NW78 9:00am 2:05pm Daily via NGO NW75 3:50pm 6:25pm Daily C0943 5:25pm 8:00pm Daily	NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN C0942 9:25am 1:55pm Daily NW76 10:00am 2:35pm Daily NW77 6:35pm 1:40am+1 Daily via NGO NW100 8:45pm 1:20am+1 Daily C0944 9:00pm 1:30am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX) OZ119 4:00am 6:40am 1, 3, 4, 6	OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN OZ120 9:55pm 2:20am+1 2, 3, 5, 7
SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO) NW78 9:00am 11:40am Daily	NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN NW77 9:10pm 1:40am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) OZ608 3:20am 6:50am 1, 4, 5, 7	BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN OZ607 9:00pm 2:20am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) OZ604 2:20am 6:00am 1 OZ604 2:50am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ119 4:00am 11:20am 1, 3, 4, 6 via KIX OZ606 3:30pm 7:00pm 2, 4, 6, 7	SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN OZ605 9:00am 2:30pm 2, 4, 6, 7 OZ120 7:10pm 2:20am+1 2, 3, 5, 7 via KIX OZ603 7:40pm 1:10am+1 7 OZ603 8:10pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) FM844 2:50am 5:40am 2, 6	SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN FM843 7:15pm 1:50am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN) CZ3008 3:30am 6:40am 2, 6	GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN CZ3007 7:30pm 2:40am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA OZ604/701 2:20am 11:25am 1 via ICN OZ604/703 2:50am 11:25am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN C09603/933 3:30pm 8:40pm Daily via GUM C09599/PR111 9:30pm 7:45am+1 1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	MANILA-SAIPAN OZ702/603 12:45pm 1:10am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/603 12:45pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN PR110/C09596 10:00pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM C0934/9596 10:55pm 7:50am+1 Daily via GUM OZ704/605 11:50pm 2:30pm+1 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
SAIPAN-HONG KONG OZ604/721 2:20am 11:45am 1 via ICN OZ604/721 2:50am 11:45am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	HONG KONG-SAIPAN OZ724/605 12:30am 2:30pm 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN OZ722/603 1:15pm 1:10am+1 7 via ICN OZ722/603 1:15pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily
Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Schedule of Religious Services														
CATHOLIC														
Mt. Carmel Cathedral Sunday Mass: 6am, 9am, 11am and 6pm Monday-Saturday: 6am Wednesday: 6am and 6pm														
Korean Center Sunday: 10:30am Wednesday: 10am Thursday-Friday: 8pm Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm														
Kristo Rai Parish Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am Monday- Saturday: 6am Wednesday: 6am and 6pm Saturday: 6am and 6pm														
Nuestra Senora De Soledad Parish Wednesday Mass: 6pm First Friday Healing Mass: 6pm Saturday Mass: 6pm Sunday Masses: 7:30am & 9am														
Saint Jude Parish Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am Wednesday and Thursday: 6pm														
San Antonio Parish Sunday: 6am and 8am Tuesday and Friday: 6pm														
San Francisco de Borja-Rota Sunday: 6am and 8am Monday-Saturday: 6am Wednesday: 6pm														
San Isidro-Rota Sunday: 5am and 10am Monday-Wednesday: 7pm Thursday-Saturday: 5am and 7pm														
San Jose (Oleai) Parish Sunday: 6am and 7:30am Tuesday-Wednesday and Friday-Saturday: 6pm														
San Roque Parish Sunday: 9am Wednesday: 6pm Saturday: 10:30am														
San Vicente Parish Sunday: 6am, 9am and 6pm Monday-Saturday: 6pm														
Santa Remedios Sunday: 7:30am Tuesday: 6pm Saturday: 10am-Baptism														
Santa Soledad Sunday: 7:30am														
PROTESTANT														
Born Again Christian (Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am Sunday School for Children: 10-11am Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm														
Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan Sunday School: 9am Sunday Morning Worship: 10am Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm														
Chinese Christian Church of Saipan Worship Services: Sunday, 10am and 7:30pm Bible Study: Tuesday-Friday, 9:25pm														
Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan Worship/Study Opportunities Adult Sunday School: 9am Youth Sunday School: 9am English Worship Service Sunday: 10am Sunday Service: 5:30pm Worship/Fellowship Sunday: 9:30pm Evangelism/Follow-up: Sunday/Monday: 1:30/7:30pm Worship Team: Monday/Saturday-9pm; Cell Groups Tuesday: 7:30pm Mid-week Service: 7:30pm Prayer Meeting Wednesday: 7:30pm Leader's Bible Study Friday: 7:30 pm Cornerstone School of Ministry Saturday: 7:30pm														
Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan St. Paul's Episcopal Church Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am Place: Vicarage, Chalan Lulau, Call 235-0545 for directions														
Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan Worship Service: 9am GBI Classes: 4-6pm Prayer Meeting: Monday-Saturday: 6am Sunday: 7am Home Cell Bible Study: Wednesday-Friday: 7pm Youth Service: Friday: 5:30pm														
Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan Wednesday: 7:45pm (Tagalog) Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (English) Saturday: 7:45pm (Tagalog) Sunday: 6:45am (English) Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)														
Immanuel United Methodist Church Koblerville Sunday Services 9:00 AM Place of the church-next to Mt. Carmel Cathedral on Chalan Kanoa Dr. • Tel: 322-6158 Pastor JJ Matsumoto														
Immanuel Methodist Church (Filipino Congregation) Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal 8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)														
9:15am-Sunday School Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group 8:00pm-Prayer Meeting Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church) Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)														
Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan English Service: 9-11am, Sunday Tagalog Service: 6-8pm, Sunday														
Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan Sunday School: 8:20am Sunday Adult: 10am Sunday Adult: 11:30am Sunday Evening: 7:30pm Wednesday: 8pm														
Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan Sunday Worship Service: 10am-12noon Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm Tel. No. 235-LIFE (54333)														
Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan English Worship Service: 9-10:30am Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm English Sunday School: 11am-12pm Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm Wednesday Prayer Meeting: English, 7pm-8pm Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm														
Missions Connection Ministry Every Sunday Celebrations: 10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog) Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm Youth Impact Friday: 7pm Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm														
Northern Marianas Christian Church Sunday Worship Service 10am Fina Sisu Housing FS#1 (Child care will be provided) Friday Services @ 7pm Fina Sisu FS#1 for more info pls. contact Ryan 484-2620														
Saipan Bible Fellowship Church Sunday School: 9:30-10am Divine Worship: 10am-11:30am Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm														
Saipan Christian Church Sunday: 7:30am-10am Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting) Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)														
Saipan Church of Christ Sunday Bible Class: 9am Sunday Worship: 10am Sunday Worship English: 6pm Sunday Worship Tagalog: 7pm Wednesday Bible Study: 7:30pm														
Saipan Community Church (Sunday Services) Palau Service: 7:30am-9am English Service: 10am-11:30am Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm														
Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan (Saturday Church Services) Sabbath School Program: 9-10am Lesson Study: 10-10:40am Divine Service: 11-12pm Visitation: 3-4pm Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm Sundown Worship: 6-7pm														
First Baptist Church (Formerly Saipan Baptist Church) Afetna St., San Antonio Sunday <table><tr><td></td><td>9am</td><td>Sunday school</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>10am</td><td>Regular worship</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>6pm</td><td>worship</td></tr><tr><td>Wednesday</td><td>7pm</td><td>worship</td></tr></table> Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church. For further information, please call Pastor David M. Mclure at 234-1939/235-7779.				9am	Sunday school		10am	Regular worship		6pm	worship	Wednesday	7pm	worship
	9am	Sunday school												
	10am	Regular worship												
	6pm	worship												
Wednesday	7pm	worship												
Thy Word Ministries Saipan Faith Center Phone 234-0209 New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches. Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi Service Times Sunday 10:00am Worship Service Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service Saturday 10:00am Evangelism														
Upper Room International Ministries Sunday 5:30 am-6:30 am Morning prayer <table><tr><td>7am-9am</td><td>English service</td></tr><tr><td>7am-9am</td><td>Sunday school</td></tr><tr><td>10am-12noon</td><td>English service,</td></tr></table> Koblerville Wednesday 7pm-9pm Prayer meeting Saturday 7pm-9pm Tagalog service Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church Gualo Rai, Saipan			7am-9am	English service	7am-9am	Sunday school	10am-12noon	English service,						
7am-9am	English service													
7am-9am	Sunday school													
10am-12noon	English service,													
Victory Chapel Christian Fellowship Church Sunday School: 9:30am Sunday AM Worship: 10:30am Sunday PM Worship: 7:00am Wed Worship: 7:30pm Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S														

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

AUG 15, 2000

Funds to fight int'l crimes still in limbo
It is not certain yet whether the Department of Public Safety stands to receive additional funding for FY 2001 to combat what it says as an increase in international crimes in the CNMI. The House Ways and Means Committee will still need to identify other funding sources for the police than what has been made available under the governor’s budget proposal for the next fiscal year, according to its chairman. “If we have the resources, we’ll concentrate on those things [needed by DPS] so that we can have a very tranquil and well-organized society,” Rep. Antonio M. Camacho told in an interview yesterday.

Stiffer penalties vs illegal water, power connections
The House of Representatives yesterday passed legislation seeking to impose fines against illegal tapping of power and water services in a move to stop the practice that has robbed the government hundreds of thousands of dollars in revenues every year. Sponsored by Rep. Rosiky F. Camacho, chair of the Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications, the measure also calls for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation to install metering devices on all its customers, including private well owners, in order to monitor their consumption. The civil penalties will range from \$1,000 for first offense and up to \$5,000 for second violation of the proposed law under HB 12-175 or the Illegal Utility Service Penalties Act of 2000 which has drawn support from government agencies.

AUG 15, 2001
Classroom shortage looms
Public elementary school principals yesterday raised concerns about a possible classroom shortage and a significantly high student-teacher ratio as enrollment figures soared this academic year. Initial registration tally showed that more than 4,600 students have enrolled in various public elementary schools on Saipan. The number is expected to increase in the coming days as registration continues. Four of the 10 elementary schools that will open today registered over 670 students. Kagman Elementary School enlisted 770 students; San Vicente Elementary School has 720 registered pupils; Garapan Elementary School, 681 enrollees; and William S. Reyes Elementary School enrolled 678 students.

Officials urged to assess effects of Bush’s tax cuts
A ranking official of the Bush administration yesterday said the implementation of tax cuts in the United States may have an impact on federal grants in Pacific territories, as negotiations loom for a new round of US-CNMI Covenant funds. David Heggstad, director of the Office of Insular Affairs’ Budget and Grants Management, also said he favors a continued implementation of the matching requirement for Capital Improvement Projects for the new agreement. “I think there’s a legitimate point. The tax cuts can have an impact here,” Heggstad told the Saipan Tribune, reacting to a statement of former OIA director Ferdinand Aranza.

AUG 15, 2002
Body’s identity known Saturday
Authorities would not confirm if the human remains found Monday in Kagman III was that of missing tour coordinator Chiharu Umeyama pending the results of an autopsy that will be done on Saturday. Acting Public Safety spokesperson Thomas A. Blas Jr. reported yesterday that investigators have recovered clothing and pieces of jewelry at the crime scene. The items recovered could shed light on the real identity of the decaying human remains. DPS declined to comment on the cause of death, though suspicions are rife that it could be a homicide

FEMA signs off \$1.7M aid for Rota
Gov. Juan N. Babauta and the Federal Emergency Management Agency signed yesterday afternoon the agreement that would provide at least \$1.7 million for the rehabilitation of Rota Island. This comes 41 days after Typhoon Chata’an hit Rota and Guam on July 4 this year and just eight days after President Bush declared Rota a disaster area. FEMA Coordinating Officer William L. Carwile III, who signed the agreement in behalf of the federal agency, said that FEMA, together with the CNMI government, is now working on building a team that would be deployed to Rota to headline the rehabilitation process.

Business

Retail sales remain weak, prices seen to stay low



AP
In this Aug. 11, 2009 photo, shoppers move through the check-out line after a shopping trip to Wal-Mart in Tallahassee, Fla.

WASHINGTON (AP)—Retail sales dropped in July, government data showed, reinforcing concerns among economists that consumers won’t spend enough to help a recovery take hold. But Friday is expected to bring better news: July inflation is expected to have remained flat, and industrial production is likely to have grown for the first time in nine months. Thursday’s retail sales report served as a reality check for an economy that lately has appeared poised to emerge from recession and grow again. Consumer spending powers about 70 percent of economic activity. The Cash for Clunkers rebate program helped give auto sales their biggest jump in six months in July, but sales sank elsewhere.

Business Briefs

Ford to boost production of Focus, Escape
DEARBORN, Mich. (AP)—Ford said Thursday it will build more of its popular Focus and Escape models and boost total vehicle production later this year to help dealers restock depleted showrooms. The automaker needs to keep up with demand for its Focus compact car and Escape crossover, both ranked as top sellers under the federal government’s Cash for Clunkers program. The company also wants to roll out a reasonable amount of cars and trucks following earlier production cuts. That way, dealers won’t run short on hot models in the final months of this year.

Gov’t lets Madoff CFO escape some charges for help
NEW YORK (AP)—Bernard Madoff’s former finance chief won’t face charges for using drugs or for having unregistered firearms as part of his plea deal in the multibillion-dollar fraud. Frank DiPascali’s plea agree-

ment says that if he cooperates fully, he won’t be prosecuted for those and other dubious activities, including deleting files from his home computer on the December day Madoff confessed to the fraud. The deal was made public on Thursday.

FDA panel backs Amgen bone drug for osteoporosis
WASHINGTON (AP)—A federal health panel on Thursday said a highly anticipated bone drug from Amgen benefits patients with osteoporosis, but should not be used to prevent the disease because of long-term safety questions. Food and Drug Administration experts unanimously voted that Amgen’s injectable drug denosumab helps prevent bone fractures in women with postmenopausal osteoporosis. But panelists said the drug should only be used by patients who face the greatest risk of fractures. In a separate 12-3 vote, the panel ruled against using the drug as a preventive measure for women with low bone density.

Nation

White House uses e-mail to counter health critics



In this Aug. 12, 2009 file photo, Brett Wian, of Boone, Iowa, asks Sen. Charles Grassley, R-Iowa a question during a town hall meeting in Adel, Iowa.

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama's push to revamp health care got a boost Thursday as a new coalition of drug makers, unions, hospitals and others launched a \$12 million pro-overhaul ad campaign. Meanwhile, the administration sought to regain control of the health care debate by asking supporters to forward a chain e-mail to counter criticism that's circulating on the Internet.

The e-mail by White House senior adviser David Axelrod offers reasons to support Obama's agenda—and myths to debunk.

Axelrod wrote that opponents are relying on tactics including "viral e-mails that fly unchecked and under the radar, spreading all sorts of lies."

"So let's start a chain e-mail of our own," he said, inviting supporters to forward a message countering claims that Obama's plans would lead to rationing, encourage euthanasia or de-

plete veterans' health care.

The new ad airing in a dozen states is being paid for by a new coalition called Americans for Stable Quality Care. Members of the group are Families USA, the Service Employees International Union, the drug lobby Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America, the American Medical Association and the Federation of American Hospitals.

The ad shows a series of photos of doctors and nurses interacting with patients as the narrator asks: "What does health insurance reform mean for you? It means you can't be denied coverage for a pre-existing condition, or dropped if you get sick." The ad also cites lowered costs and a focus on prevention, among other things.

Even as public skepticism over Democrats' health overhaul plans boils over at town hall meetings nationwide, the ad is the latest example of the odd-

bedfellows help that Obama is getting in his plea to Congress to enact comprehensive legislation to lower costs and extend coverage to the nearly 50 million uninsured.

"This is really focused on what has been an increasing emphasis for almost all supporters of health care reform, namely trying to make sure families around the country understand the benefits of health reform for them—especially middle-class families that already do have health insurance," said Ron Pollack, executive director of Families USA, a liberal advocacy group.

Pollack said that supporters who've been focused on the legislative process in Congress need to turn their attention to public opinion, which has been slipping as conservative activists fuel fears of rationing and government control.

"We have a job now to do to have facts catch up with the myths," Pollack said.

Runaway Christian convert claims life is in danger

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)—A 17-year-old girl who ran away from her Ohio home to Florida says she fears her parents will harm her for converting from Islam to Christianity, but her parents dismiss her claim and say she was brainwashed.

Her parents also question how the girl ended up in the home of a Florida family she met through an online prayer group. Authorities are trying to determine whether the girl, Rifqa Bary, should stay in state custody or be returned to her family in Ohio.

"We love her, we want her back, she is free to practice her religion, whatever she believes in, that's OK," her father, Mohamed Bary, told The Associated Press on Thursday.

"What these people are trying to do is not right—I don't think any religion will teach to separate the kids from their parents," he said.

Columbus police also question the girl's claim of being in danger.

Mohamed Bary "comes across to me as a loving, caring, worried father about the whereabouts and the health of his daughter," said Sgt. Jerry Cupp, chief of the Columbus police missing persons bureau.

Police investigating the girl's July 19 disappearance used phone and computer records to track her to the Rev. Blake Lorenz, pastor of Orlando, Fla.-based Global Revolution Church, who called authorities Aug. 6 to say she was staying with them.

With Lorenz holding his arm tightly around her, Rifqa told WFTV in Florida on Monday that she would be killed if she came home.

"They love God more than me; they have to do this," she said. "I'm fighting for my life. You guys don't understand."

Lorenz did not return a phone call to the AP seeking comment.

An Orlando judge on Monday ordered the girl into the custody of Florida's Department of Children and Families until another hearing next week.

The family is originally from Sri Lanka and emigrated in 2000 to seek medical help for Rifqa, who had lost sight in her right eye when she fell and struck a toy airplane on a couch at home.

ACROSS THE NATION

Mich. prison assessed for possible Gitmo transfers

STANDISH, Mich. (AP)—Federal and state officials visited a maximum-security prison in rural Michigan on Thursday to begin assessing its suitability to house Guantanamo Bay detainees. About a dozen state officials were joined by 18 representatives from the Defense, Justice and Homeland Security departments and the Bureau of Prisons on the tour of the lockup in Standish. The prison in Standish, 145 miles north of Detroit, and a military penitentiary at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., are being considered to house the 229 suspected al-Qaida, Taliban and foreign fighters currently at the Guantanamo Bay prison, if it is closed by 2010 as President Barack Obama has ordered.

Md. judge admits deflating tire over parking spot

LA PLATA, Md. (AP)—A circuit court judge has acknowledged he deflated a tire on a car parked in a restricted area near his courthouse earlier this week. But he isn't apologizing. Charles County Judge Robert C. Nalley told station WUSA on Wednesday that he let out the air because leaving notes for those parked illegally isn't effective. The owner of the car, Jean Washington, works part-time at the courthouse in La Plata as part of a cleaning crew and said she didn't know she couldn't park in the restricted area. She said she never received any warnings. Police are investigating the incident.

FAA: 2 employees investigated in mid-air collision

WASHINGTON (AP)—Authorities have suspended an air traffic controller who was talking on the phone during last week's deadly mid-air collision over New York's Hudson River, along with a supervisor who was out of the building at the time. The Federal Aviation Administration said that while there was no reason to believe thus far that the employees' actions contributed to the accident, which killed nine people, such "conduct is unacceptable." Air-traffic controllers are expected to be alert at all times while on duty and are given regular breaks, sometimes hourly, for that reason. The two employees, who were not identified by the FAA, were placed on administrative leave.

Clinton stays mum on tart response to questioner

MONROVIA, Liberia (AP)—A close aide to Hillary Rodham Clinton dismissed as "psychobabble" the fuss over the secretary of state's barbed response to a questioner asking for her famous husband's opinion instead of her own. Clinton ignored questions about the episode as she wound down a marathon African trip Thursday. Clinton had reacted strongly earlier this week when a Congolese student in Kinshasa asked her for the opinion of her husband, former President Bill Clinton, about an international economic issue. "Wait. You want me to tell you what my husband thinks?" a wide-eyed Clinton asked Tuesday in response. "My husband is not the secretary of state; I am. So you ask my opinion, I will tell you my opinion. I'm not going to be channeling my husband."

Police standoff ends at LA federal building

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A man suspected of making threats against the White House was pulled from his car Thursday after an hours-long standoff in the parking lot of the Federal Building in West Los Angeles. The man had refused to leave his red Volkswagen Beetle and withstood four rounds of chemical agents tossed inside the car after police broke a rear window. Minutes later, officers shot out the drivers window with a bean bag gun and pulled him out. Secret Service spokesman Ed Donovan identified the suspect as Joseph Moshe, 56, of Los Angeles. Moshe is suspected of calling a police dispatch number Wednesday and making threatening statements about the White House, Donovan said.

Several wildfires scorch Calif. as thousands flee

DAVENPORT, Calif. (AP)—Thousands of firefighters battled wildfires across California on Thursday, including a growing blaze that forced about 2,400 people to evacuate their homes in the Santa Cruz Mountains. The Lockheed Fire, which started around 7 p.m. Wednesday, had scorched about 2,800 acres, or 4.4 square miles, in Santa Cruz County, according to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. The blaze, about 10 miles north of the city of Santa Cruz, threatened more than 1,000 homes and other buildings and has not been contained at all.

Scientists find rare gene behind short sleepers

WASHINGTON (AP)—Scientists have discovered a gene that helps a mother and daughter stay alert on about six hours sleep a night, two hours less than the rest of their family needs.

It's believed to be a very rare mutation, not an excuse for the rest of us who stay up too late. But the finding, published in Friday's edition of the journal Science, offers a new lead to study how sleep affects health.

The National Institutes of Health says adults need seven hours to nine hours of sleep for good health. Regularly getting too little increases the risk of health problems, including memory impairment and a weakened immune system. A major 2006 study estimated that as many as 30 million Americans suffer chronic insom-

nia, and millions more have other sleep disorders, including sleep apnea.

University of California, San Francisco, researchers have long hunted genes related to how and when people sleep. In 2001, they discovered a mutation that puts its carriers' sleep patterns out of whack: These people regularly go to bed around 7:30 p.m. and wake around 3:30 a.m.

Now the same team has found a gene involved in regulating length of sleep. In one family, the 69-year-old mother and her 44-year-old daughter typically go to bed around 10 p.m., and Mom rises around 4 and her daughter around 4:30, with no apparent ill effects. The rest of the family has typical sleep patterns.

Asia

SKorean held in North freed, returns home

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea freed a South Korean worker Thursday it had detained for months for allegedly denouncing its political system—an apparent goodwill gesture toward Seoul and Washington amid the standoff over the regime's nuclear weapons program.

Last week, the North released jailed American journalists Euna Lee and Laura Ling to former U.S. President Bill Clinton, helping ease months of tensions stoked by the country's recent atomic and long-range rocket tests.

On Thursday, Pyongyang deported Yoo Seong-jin, a 44-year-old technician who worked at a joint industrial park in the North, where about 110 South Korean-run factories employ about 40,000 North Korean workers. Yoo has been held for allegedly denouncing the North's government and attempting to persuade a North

Korean worker to defect.

"I'm happy that I returned safely," Yoo told reporters in a brief comment after arriving at a South Korean immigration control center near the border.

Hyundai Group Chairwoman Hyun Jung-eun has been in the North for the past few days, and she may have negotiated the release of Yoo, who is an employee for Hyundai's North Korean business arm, Hyundai Asan.

But analysts said just as important may have been Clinton's reported urging that the Yoo be freed. After months of antagonizing Seoul and Washington, the North may be looking to turn things around, they said.

Relations between the two

Koreas—which remain technically at war more than 50 years after their conflict ended in a truce—began deteriorating when pro-U.S., conservative President Lee Myung-bak took office in Seoul early last year. Lee has advocated and implemented a harder line on the North than his predecessors. The North responded by cutting most ties or curtailing key joint projects except for the Kaesong industrial complex.

Ties reached new lows this year as the isolated regime pulled out of nuclear negotiations, vowed to restart its shuttered reactor, test-launched a barrage of missiles and conducted an atomic test. Analysts have said recently that those provocative actions were designed to push Washington into holding direct talks with the North. Clinton's visit may have halted the provocation—offering Pyongyang, and leader Kim, a measure of prestige.



Yoo Seong-jin

Taiwanese hauled to safety across raging river

SINFA, Taiwan (AP)—Barefoot and helmeted, the frightened survivors of deadly Typhoon Morakot dangled high over jagged rocks and a raging river Thursday as soldiers hauled them to safety one by one along a 100-foot-long cable.

On the far side, a few dozen waited near a hand-painted sign on the craggy foundation of a destroyed bridge: "32 people died here SOS."

The perilous rescue was part of a massive military effort to save hundreds of stranded villagers after the worst flooding to hit Taiwan in 50 years. Some 14,000 villagers have been rescued since the typhoon struck five days ago; hundreds more are feared missing or dead.

As criticism mounted Thursday over Taiwan's response to the disaster, the government dispatched another 4,000 troops to work with the 14,000 already deployed. Many of them are working in Kaohsiung County, a mountainous farming region in southern Taiwan.

The rugged terrain and widespread devastation played havoc with rescue efforts following the storm, which dumped 80 inches (2 meters) of rain on the island



Taiwan military soldiers rescue a villager on an emergency cable sling strung across the Ba Si Lan river in Sinfa, Taiwan, Thursday, Aug. 13, 2009, five days after flash flooding from Typhoon Morakot took the lives of 32 fellow villagers.

over the weekend.

Soldiers in fatigues and heavy gloves resorted to using a makeshift zipline to haul survivors from the village of Sinkai over the Ba Si Lan River where the bridge was wiped out. For hours they labored, rescuing everyone from a young boy in shorts to an elderly woman who brought along a couple of shopping bags worth of belongings.

Unbuckled from their harnesses, villagers looked dazed and frightened as they recalled

the harrowing night of Aug. 8.

"It rained for days," said Li Wen-chuan, a grizzled-looking man of 68 with sparse salt-and-pepper hair, teeth stained red by years of betel nut chewing. "But the flood came so suddenly and with a tremendous roar. It destroyed everything in the village."

"This is the worst thing that has ever happened to me," he said, adding that many of the 32 who died in village were friends and family. "My life will never be the same."

World

Two suicide bombings kill 20-plus in Iraq

BAGHDAD (AP)—A double suicide bombing devastated a cafe packed with young people in northwestern Iraq on Thursday, killing at least 21 people, officials said, in the latest attack against a minority community.

The blast capped a deadly week in which nearly 150 people have been killed in bombings concentrated near the volatile northern city of Mosul and Baghdad, heightening fears that Sunni insurgents are stepping up efforts to stoke ethnic and sectarian tensions.

Thursday's attack occurred shortly after 5 p.m. in Sinjar, a city dominated by members of the Kurdish-speaking Yazidi religious group that is concentrated near the Syrian border.

It came two years after a village near Sinjar was hit by one of the worst insurgent attacks since the 2003 U.S. invasion. Four suicide truck bombers exploded nearly simultaneously in Qahataniya on Aug. 14, 2007,

Kurdish city targeted

At least 17 people have been killed in a double suicide bombing in the city of Sinjar.



SOURCE: ESRI

AP

killing as many as 500 Yazidis.

The bombers detonated their explosives Thursday inside the Ayoub cafe as the popular sunset destination was packed with people drinking tea and playing dominoes.

City officials imposed a curfew and said some of the most seriously wounded were evacuated to hospitals in the nearby semiautonomous Kurdish region.

"What has happened this af-

ternoon is a catastrophe that hit our city," said municipal council member Meysar Subhi. "Young people were murdered while they were just trying to have a nice time."

The attack killed 21 people, including an Egyptian resident, and wounded 32, said the director of Sinjar hospital, Dr. Kifah Mahmoud.

The top commander of U.S. forces in northern Iraq, Army Maj. Gen. Robert Caslen, said Tuesday that recent attacks show the resilience of al-Qaida in Iraq and other Sunni insurgents despite numerous military operations against them.

Tensions are especially acute along the sensitive fault line of territory disputed by Kurds and Arabs where the Yazidis live. Kurdish checkpoints guard entrances to Sinjar, and the city's mayor, Dakhil Qassim Hassoun, recently called for it to be incorporated into the nearby semiautonomous Kurdish territory.

Egyptian crews overpower pirates, kill 2

MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP)—A Somali pirate says the crews of two Egyptian fishing boats being held by pirates overpowered their captors, killing two of them, and escaped.

The pirate, who gave only his nom de guerre of Miraa, says the crew attacked the pirates with machetes on Thursday and

seized some of the pirates' guns before overpowering them.

Miraa says the fight took place off the coast off the northern Somalia coastal town of Las Qorey.

Miraa was speaking to The Associated Press on Friday as he recuperated from wounds he says he got during the fight.

Businessman Said Jama Hussein says the Egyptians apparently took some pirates hostage.

Pirates had held the Egyptian fishing vessels since mid-April.

Las Qorey is off the Gulf of Aden, one of the world's busiest waterways where Somali pirates carry out most of their attacks.

Europe investigators join search for ship

MOSCOW (AP)—The disappearance of a Russian-manned cargo ship in the Atlantic more than two weeks ago spawned a variety of theories and intriguing reports Thursday as the search drew in investigators from across Europe.

Russia had naval vessels and satellites scanning the ocean for the Arctic Sea—last heard from on July 28 while sailing through the English Channel with a euro1.3 million (\$1.8 million) cargo of timber.

Since then there has been no confirmed sighting of the Maltese-flagged freighter, which had reported being attacked four days earlier in the Baltic Sea off

the Swedish island of Oland.

"There are lots of theories because no one really understands what's happening," said Pavel Felgenhauer, a security analyst. "Such wild theories circulate, because no one really understands who needs a ship with timber."

The crew had said that, on July 24, up to a dozen masked men had boarded, tied up the 15 crew members, questioned them about drug trafficking and beat them before leaving 12 hours later in a high-speed inflatable boat, the Malta Maritime Authority said.

The ship had been due to make port Aug. 4 in Algeria,

but has not arrived and appeared to have changed course. The maritime authority said the Arctic Sea "has not approached the Straits of Gibraltar, which indicates that the ship headed out in the Atlantic Ocean."

Speculation on what might have happened has ranged from theories that it might have been carrying secret cargo to the possibility that it fell victim to an almost unheard of case of sea banditry in European waters.

The Swedish daily Metro said it spoke by telephone with someone who claimed to be the Arctic Sea captain on July 31 about the reported hijacking in the Baltic Sea.

Preaching reform, Clinton wins African hearts

JOHANNESBURG (AP)—In Liberia, Hillary Clinton brought out the crowds despite torrential rain. In Congo, she came away deeply shaken from a meeting with rape victims. Kenya's prime minister said Africa didn't need lectures from the West about democracy, but Africa got one anyway.

At home, the U.S. secretary of state's visit may have been overshadowed by the aftermath of her husband's mission to North Korea to bring home two imprisoned U.S. journalists. But on her seven-nation Africa tour,

ending Friday with a stopover in the West African island republic of Cape Verde, she made one splash after another.

Coupled with Barack Obama's visit last month, the two trips to Africa were the earliest into an administration by any secretary of state or president, underlining Washington's pledges to pay more attention to the continent.

In the U.S., the headline-making moment of the trip was her testy response to a question about Bill Clinton. But in Africa, it quickly became a footnote. What people wanted

to hear was support for democracy, clean government and ending its many civil wars.

Clinton's ambitious itinerary resembled those of China's foreign minister, who makes extensive annual tours of his country's allies on the continent. But where China tends to sidestep the issues of corruption democracy, Clinton confronted them head-on.

Kenyan Prime Minister Raila Odinga, speaking hours before Clinton arrived, said Africa did not need to be lectured about democracy. After they met, she did just that.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Lead poisoning sickens 600 kids in China

BEIJING (AP)—The number of children sickened from lead poisoning has risen to more than 600 in a northern Chinese province where authorities shut a smelter earlier this week thought to have caused the contamination, state media reported. More than 80 percent of the 731 children living in the two villages near the Dongling Lead and Zinc Smelting Co. in Shaanxi province have tested positive for lead poisoning, nearly double the number reported earlier this week, the official Xinhua News Agency reported late Thursday. Local officials say they plan to relocate all 581 households living within 500 meters (1,600 feet) of the factory within the next two years, the report said.

As Marines push into Afghan town, fire from '360'

DAHANEH, Afghanistan (AP)—U.S. aircraft and missiles pounded Taliban mountainside positions around Dahaneh on Thursday as Marines pushed through mudbrick compounds searching for militants in the second day of fighting to seize this strategic southern town. Also in the south, four NATO service members—three British and one American—were killed in separate explosions Thursday, military officials said. August's casualty count is likely to surpass the record 75 deaths U.S. and NATO troops suffered in July, the deadliest month for the international force in the nearly eight-year war. The violence comes as Afghans prepare to vote in Aug. 20 presidential elections.

Maharlika

PINOY LIFE IN THE MARIANAS

Saturday, August 15, 2009

98 OFWs on Saipan complete livelihood courses

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Close to a hundred Filipino workers on Saipan are set to complete today four short courses in different livelihood programs organized by the Philippine Consulate Office, Philippine Overseas Labor Office and the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration.

The graduation ceremonies will be at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort and Spa this Sunday, Aug. 16, at 5pm.

The list of candidates totaled 98 students in four courses that include Basic Sewing, Basic Nihongo, Basic Computer Operations II, and Commercial Cooking.

Philippine Consul General Medardo G. Macaraig will administer the confirmation of the graduates, who all attended five-hour sessions in eight consecutive Saturday or Sunday sessions at the POLO Resource Center at the Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe.

Labor Representative Joan Lourdes D. Lavilla will deliver the welcoming address, followed by the presentation of graduates by volunteer trainers Ma. Teresa A. De Jesus (sewing), Crispulo B. Hilario Jr. (computer), Leopoldo O. Rodriguez Jr. (Nihongo) and Hermie Coronejo (cooking).

Welfare Officer Reynaldo Tayag will give the closing remarks; Delia S. Palomar will be the emcee.

Each class is assigned an entertainment number during the graduation. The basic sewing class will have a mini fashion show featuring the dresses they designed and sewed during their completion of the course.

Nihongo class president Reynhard M. Belo will deliver the invocation, a representative of the computer class will lead the Philippine national anthem, Michelle V. Villaraza of the cooking class will sing, Judith Medalle and Janice Limon of the Nihongo class will do a duet, while the computer class graduates who have a dance number.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Volunteer instructor Cris Hilario stresses a point as students of Basic Computer II listen during one of their regular Sunday classes at the Philippine Overseas Labor Office Resource Center.

CANDIDATES FOR GRADUATION

Basic Sewing (Batch 15)

June 21-Aug. 9

Sundays, 2-5pm

Instructor: Ma. Teresa A. De Jesus

1. Aldanese, Elvina B.
2. Bejado, Alinda M.
3. Cadudu-an, Loma M.
4. Crisostomo, Regina G.
5. Dasalla, Arsenia F.
6. Deomano, Winnie H.
7. Evangelista, Teresita A.
8. Gascon, Gerladine M.
9. Gatdula, Luz G.
10. Lansangan, Salip Maerilyn M.
11. Mercado, Anastacia L.
12. Montilla, Cristylyn G.
13. Navarro, Conchita L.
14. Olita, Ermelanda B.
15. Ragadi, Glory F.
16. Salac, Aurora B.
17. Sotto, Divina T.

Basic Nihongo (Batch 21)

June 21-August 9

Sundays, 2:30-5:30pm

Instructor: Leopoldo O. Rodriguez Jr.

1. Agacoscos, Marilyn M.
2. Banayos, Emerlinda C.
3. Basa, Manolito Z.

Basic computer Operations II (Batch 2)

June 28-Aug. 16

Sundays, 9am-12pm

Instructor: Crispulo B. Hilario Jr.

4. Belo, Reynhard M.
5. Bitco, Nhorleen M.
6. Bonio, Elma A.
7. Capili, Elizabeth U.
8. Carlos, Leonida M.
9. Doronila, Rasty M.
10. Espanola, Marylou L.
11. Fernando, Angelito F.
12. Flores, Ronaldo A.
13. Limon, Janice M.
14. Lopez, Ofelia S.
15. Lopez, Soldedad B.
16. Macapagal, Mylene M.
17. Mago, Marilou M.
18. Medalle, Judith C.
19. Nicolas, Angelo A.
20. Olar, Anecita R.
21. Pabilando, Mildred M.
22. Paracale, Rosal R.
23. Regaton, Marlon E.
24. Tagudan, Winnie Ann D.
25. Tanghal, Cilda B.

1. Acaso, Edito B.
2. Acebo, Alex P.

Commercial Cooking (Batch 1)

2pm-5pm, Saturday

June 20-August 15

Instructor: Hermie B. Coronejo

1. Abril, Bethsaida T.
2. Antonio, Luz Angeles A.
3. Atriz, Ninfia R.
4. Baduria, Eliza A.
5. Bardalo, Rosana D.
6. Balingit, Jessiely S.
7. Brondo, Jovelita P.
8. Capellan, Eva L.
9. Deang, Irindina P.
10. Diaz, Shirley C.
11. Gallego, Anna Liza U.
12. Javillonar, Ferdinand S.
13. Jimenez, Ma. Viveth B.
14. Laguardo, Chona D.
15. Macalinao, Rosita R.
16. Mago, Merly I.
17. Masilungan, Marilou P.
18. Mercene, Rhodaly B.
19. Miguel, July T.
20. Morante, Roshiel Q.
21. Posadas, Victoria T.
22. Ramis, Mercedita G.
23. Rodriguez, Nazario Jr. A.
24. Salvador, Luisito A.
25. Villanueva, Maureen Mae C.
26. Villanueva, Angelica O.
27. Villaraza, Michelle V.
28. Wahing, Anita F.

The Nihongo class already ended its final day of lessons last Sunday.

The commercial cooking students

will be completing their course with a final presentation of their recipes today, while the basic sewing class

students are expected to finish their design in time for tomorrow's mini fashion show.

More OFWs register for 2010 polls—DFA

By LIRA DALANGIN-FERNANDEZ
INQUIRER.NET

MANILA, Philippines—Close to a thousand Filipinos working abroad registered on Thursday in various posts to allow them to vote in the May 2010 presidential election, the Department of Foreign Affairs said.

There are now a total of 175,687 newly-registered Overseas Absentee Voters, up from Thursday's figure of 174,815, the DFA said.

Those who will want to register have 16 days more before the Aug. 31 deadline set by the DFA.

The figure represents only 17.5 percent of the one million new registrants being targeted by the DFA.

Posts in the Asia and the Pacific had the highest number of OAV registrants with 49,804, followed by the Middle East with 33,361, the Americas with 31,808 and Europe with 19,153.

Registration posts manned by Philippine Overseas Employment Agency had 18,471 registrants, followed by those at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport with 13,440; Commission on Filipinos Overseas, 4,815; and the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration with 4,835.

Of the countries with diplomatic posts, Dubai had the most number of new registrants daily for the month of August of at least 100 per day.

In Osaka, Japan, 135 registered just on August 12, after a sluggish start.

Los Angeles in US also had consistently high registrants every day this month.

OAV secretariat chairman Rafael Seguis had said he expects registration to intensify in the final month.

To encourage more Filipinos abroad to register, Seguis said that field and mobile registrations were scheduled to take place in many sites or venues worldwide in the last month of registration.

LABOR FRONT

Inspection of alien workers' worksites

By FERDIE PONCE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorres@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Q: Does Labor need to obtain a warrant to inspect alien workers' worksites?

A: According to CNMI Labor's requirements for employers of foreign workers' safety and health in the workplace, no warrant is required for inspection of a worksite, and Labor need not present any evidence of a violation of labor laws or regulations as a basis for such an inspection.

As a condition of enjoying the priv-

ilege of employing foreign national workers in the CNMI, every employer who executes an approved employment contract with a foreign national worker shall be deemed to have consented, expressly and in writing, to administrative inspections of the employer's worksites. No notice of the date and time of the inspection need be given to the employer in advance of the actual inspection.

Q: What will happen if Labor inspectors find violations during inspections of worksites?

A: If a violation of any labor law or regulation is found, the inspector may issue a citation, notice of violation, or other process intended to correct the violation, stop the employer from certain practices, or begin an enforcement action against the employer.

According to Labor's requirements, the inspector may contact all persons on the worksite to ascertain whether they are foreign national workers and whether they have valid entry permits.

Q: Are Labor inspectors allowed to arrest any person during inspection?

A: No. Labor's requirements state

that the inspector shall not detain or arrest any person. But the inspector may refer any person to another enforcement agency for further action consistent with CNMI or U.S. laws.

The Labor Administrative Hearing Office shall disqualify an employer who refuses inspection from employing foreign national workers for a period of at least six months, unless the employer can prove by clear and convincing evidence, that the inspection was not requested during normal business hours; exceeded the frequency of inspections allowed; exceeded the scope of inspections allowed or was outside the regulatory authority of Labor; and

was motivated by spite, harassment, or some improper motive unrelated to the enforcement.

Disclaimer: Readers should conduct their own research and due diligence and obtain professional legal advice. Saipan Tribune will not be liable for any loss or damage caused by a reader's reliance on information obtained from this section. Submit questions on labor issues to Saipan Tribune via e-mail at editor@saipantribune.com, or by calling 235-6397, 235-2440, or 235-8747 and leaving a message at Ext. 133 or 135. You may also submit questions in person by writing it down and dropping it off at the Saipan Tribune's office on the second floor of the JP Center on Beach Road, Garapan.

Philippine troops take militant camps, scores dead

By **JIM GOMEZ**
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine troops overran two jungle camps of al-Qaida-linked militants in their deadliest clash in years, with 23 soldiers and 31 guerrillas killed in what a top commander described Thursday as a “slugfest.”

More than 400 marines, army and police commandos stormed the hilltop camps on southern Basilan Island on Wednesday in raids targeting about 150 Abu Sayyaf militants led by two terror suspects wanted for a series of bomb attacks and kidnappings, said navy chief Vice Adm. Ferdinand Golez.

Heavy fighting ensued when

a unit of marine reinforcements met up with a large group of fleeing militants, leaving them outnumbered with 18 marines killed, Golez said.

“It was a slugfest,” regional military commander Maj. Gen. Benjamin Dolorfino told The Associated Press by telephone.

“It was really close-quarter fighting, so we couldn’t use our artillery,” he said, adding troops were still pursuing small pockets of fleeing gunmen Thursday.

A total of 23 troops died and 18 were wounded, four in serious condition, Golez said.

The slain soldiers were brought to a morgue in nearby Zamboanga city, where stunned relatives waited, some quietly weeping.

The militants, who Golez

said possibly included members of the main Muslim separatist group Moro Islamic Liberation Front, suffered 31 dead. Troops did not recover all the bodies because the militants dragged away some, he said.

A spokesman for the Moro rebels, Eid Kabalu, confirmed that 10 of the dead were members of the group. He said they were not with the Abu Sayyaf and only happened to be in the area when the fighting erupted.

Unlike the Abu Sayyaf, which is considered a terrorist organization, the larger Moro rebel group has been negotiating an autonomy deal for minority Muslims in the southern Philippines with the government. But sporadic clashes have erupted in recent months.



AP

Western Mindanao Command Chief, Maj. Gen. Benjamin Dolorfino, pins a wounded-in-action medal to a wounded soldier at a military hospital in Zamboanga City in the southern Philippines Thursday Aug. 13, 2009.

‘Arroyo spent P2.7B for foreign trips’

By **GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.**
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo had spent P2.7 billion for her foreign trips since 2001, or P1.6 billion more than the P1.1 billion budgeted for the period, a lawmaker said Friday, citing what he said were records from the Commission on Audit.

In an interview with radio dzMM, Bukidnon Representative Teofisto Guingona said Ms Arroyo spent P722 million for foreign trips in 2008 alone, or nearly three times the P244 million allocation for the year.

Citing COA records, Guingona also said Ms Arroyo exceeded her P800 million contingent fund budget in 2008 by P120 million in alleged violation of government spending rules.

The Philippine Daily Inquirer texted several Malacanang officials, including Press Secretary

Cerge Remonde and Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya, for comments but there was no immediate reaction from them.

Speaker Prospero Nograles, asked about Guingona’s allegations, told reporters: “We will ask Guingona to ask questions on the matter during the deliberations on the 2010 budget.”

Hefty dinner bills

The Washington Post report on the \$15,000 dinner at Bobby Van’s Steakhouse has only further fueled the controversy over the \$20,000 dinner at Le Cirque.

But as far as Malacañang is concerned, why quibble over hefty dinner bills when President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has racked up billions worth of investments in return?

“Whatever monies may have been spent for the appropriately ceremonious conduct of her official trip abroad are but a tiny fraction of the billions of

pesos she has committed, and will continue to commit, to the alleviation of hunger and the amelioration of poverty in our country,” Anthony Golez, a deputy spokesperson of Ms Arroyo, said Thursday, reading from a statement at a media briefing.

Shifting to attack mode, Golez assailed what he called “the character assassination being launched by tabloids passing themselves off as broadsheets and rumor-mongers masquerading as news broadcasters.”

Only on Wednesday, Arroyo’s election lawyer Romulo Macalintal lectured media outfits on the “morality” of questioning the propriety of the \$20,000 dinner.

Macalintal said the media had no business raising the issue when media owners continued to earn millions of pesos by accommodating political ads violating the law against premature campaigning.

PNP readies release of communist leader

By **ABIGAIL KWOK**
INQUIRER.NET

MANILA, Philippines—The Philippine National Police is now waiting for official pa-

pers from the Supreme Court that will secure the temporary release of peasant leader and alleged New People’s Army leader Randall Echanis after the High Court ordered his release Wednesday.

In an interview, Superintendent Cesar Magsino, officer-in-charge of the PNP Custodial Center, said that they have yet to receive official orders from the high court for Echanis’ release.

He said that upon receiving the orders, they would immediately process the documents for the release order.

Magsino said that the papers would have to be signed first by the commitment officers as well as PNP Director General Jesus

Verzosa.

Echanis will have to undergo the routine medical check-up before he would be freed to either his lawyer or relatives.

The high tribunal en banc on Wednesday passed a two-page resolution approving the provisional release of Echanis to pave the way for peace talks between the government and the National Democratic Front.

Adviser on the peace process Avelino Razon Jr. said that the peace talks would be held in Oslo, Norway on the last week of August.

Another alleged ranking NPA leader, Elizabeth Principe was released last July.

P3.7-M worth of shabu seized in Naga raid

By **ABIGAIL KWOK**
INQUIRER.NET

NAGA CITY—Authorities seized illegal drugs amounting to P3.7 million in a raid here Thursday night, police said on Friday.

Senior Superintendent Tomasito Clet, acting chief of police of Naga City, who led the operation in Karangahan Subdivision, Barangay (village) San Felipe, identified the suspected dealers as Ali, Jonair and Johaiver, all surnamed Diamoaden.

Clet said the raid at the rented house of the Diamoadens followed after two police intelligence officers posed as buyers and used marked money in 500-peso bills.

He said the marked money was seized from the suspects upon arrest together with 450 grams of shabu about to be repacked.

Senior Inspector Benigno Albao, chief of Naga City Intelligence Division, said in a separate interview with INQUIRER.net that when police searched the home of the Diamoadens, they also discovered some P15,000 in cash believed to be the earnings from previous illegal drug transactions.

The three will be facing charges of violation of Republic Act 9165 or the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002, Albao and Clet said.

Solon lavishes Leyteños with infra projects

By **JOEY A. GABIETA**
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TACLOBAN CITY—The man at the center of controversy over a reported lavish dinner by President Macapagal-Arroyo and her group at a classy French restaurant in New York is actually getting praises from his constituents.

Rep. Ferdinand Martin Romualdez, who was identified by Malacañang to have footed the bill during the dinner, has implemented multimillion-peso projects that benefit Leyte’s first congressional district.

The district covers this city and the towns of Palo, Tanauan, Alangalang, Babatngon, Santa Fe, San Miguel and Tolosa.

“We are glad that Representative Romualdez is helping us. The project that he funded in our barangay is really a big help to us,” Teresita Torepil,

barangay chair of Aslum in Alangalang, said on Thursday.

Romualdez, 45, has allocated P2.5 million for the construction of a farm-to-market road, which was finished just three weeks ago, Torepil said.

The two-lane, 2.5-kilometer connects the remote farming village of Aslum to the town center about 9 kilometers away. As a result, delivery of produce to the market is hastened, Torepil, 61, said.

The barangay leader was interviewed while she was submitting documents for another proposed project that needs funding at Romualdez’s office here.

San Miguel projects

Mayor Proto Brazil also disclosed that the lawmaker had provided several infrastructure projects worth over P18 million to his town of San

Miguel since he assumed office in 2007. These included farm-to-market roads, bridges in interior villages and multipurpose buildings.

San Miguel is the poorest town in the first district, classified as a fifth-class municipality with an annual income of just over P15 million.

Romualdez provided similar projects in Alangalang, its mayor, Loreto Yu, said in a separate interview. Yu could not give the specific costs of the projects.

“All these projects were channeled directly to the barangays. That is why, I don’t have any idea how much fund he has already given to our town,” Yu said over the phone.

Tanauan Mayor Roque Tiu said he felt grateful that the lawmaker had funded several projects in his town of 45,056 people.

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Boxer Donaire seeks his place in US, Philippines

GREG BEACHAM
AP SPORTS WRITER

SAN CARLOS, California (AP)—When Nonito Donaire fights Panama's Rafael Concepcion in Las Vegas on Saturday, the recent IBF flyweight champion will take the next step toward an American dream he started as a picked-upon 10-year-old in the Filipino province of Bohol.

After moving with his family from the Philippines to the working-class East Bay suburb of San Leandro, California, Nonito took the opportunity to reinvent himself. He decided to fight.

"I was a little snotty-nosed, big-eared kid who didn't believe that there was a tomorrow for me, and look where I am now," Donaire said while wrapping his hands before a recent workout.

Donaire (21-1, 14 KOs) has progressed up the list of the world's top pound-for-pound boxers while winning his last 20 fights. His fame is still in its nascent stages, both in his adopted home and back in the Philippines, yet his headlining spot atop the "Pinoy Power" card at the Hard Rock suggests promoter Top Rank expects the Filipino Flash to get a whole lot bigger.

After years of struggles to get fights and management, Donaire actively pursues every opportunity, switching promoters and trainers—even when that trainer is his father. Although his relationship with Glenn Donaire Sr. collapsed along the way, Nonito is still chasing that first dream despite a few mixed feelings about the sport.

"I'm not a fighter," he said. "When I was growing up, I was very timid, shy, quiet. One time, my dad showed me (Arturo) Gatti fighting on TV. He said, 'Do you want to box?' I said, 'Hell, no!'"

Donaire learned about boxing from his father, who listened to fights on the radio in their simple home in the Philippines. The family survived on his mother's salary as a teacher and the meager profits from selling homemade candy. Meat and soda were rare feasts, and the kids often wore slippers and ragged clothes to school so they wouldn't wear out their nice shoes and shirts.

Shortly after the family moved to San Leandro, living in a tough neighborhood near East Oakland, Donaire's older brother, Glenn Jr., began collecting trophies from amateur tournaments, getting attention that proved irresistible to Nonito.

Donaire eventually fought in the 2000 U.S. Olympic trials, but lost to Brian Viloria—now the IBF junior flyweight champion—in a discouraging decision that nearly drove him out of the sport. After turning pro in 2001, he spent about five years simply scrambling to cover his training expenses, often fighting on short notice but still winning all but one decision, way back in his second pro fight.

"When I had a chance to sign with managers in the past, I would hear that Filipinos are just not marketable," Donaire said. "In boxing chat rooms, they would make fun of Filipinos, say that they couldn't break an egg. That really inspired me to work hard to prove them wrong."

Manny Pacquiao changed all that in recent years, and Donaire realizes the debt he owes to the Philippines' most famous man—who once attended the school where Donaire's mother taught fourth grade.

"I train hard, but it's not as hard as Manny," he said. "He lives in a whole different world. I don't think anybody else is going to get to that point, but I'm



IBF flyweight champion Nonito Donaire is scheduled to fight Panama's Rafael Concepcion in Las Vegas on Saturday.

going to keep working hard."

Fighting as a big underdog, Donaire won his title in July 2007 with a brain-bruising knockout of Vic Darchinyan, the veteran flyweight champ who had bro-

ken Glenn Jr.'s jaw nine months earlier. Donaire's final punch—a gorgeous left hand thrown from his backstep—knocked senseless one of the lower weights' toughest fighters.

Three defenses later, Donaire is ready to move up to 115 pounds and the challenges beyond, both in and out of the ring.

Donaire readily acknowledges feeling the immigrant's familiar

split between two worlds. He considers himself Filipino first, yet his life is mostly in the Bay Area. He has trained for previous fights in the Philippines, where his celebrity attracts constant attention, but he prepared for Concepcion in the comparative anonymity of San Carlos.

"This is my home," he said, looking around the tidy gym. "I have a lot of friends out here. I feel at home here, but I'm proud to be Filipino. In the Philippines, it's like every day is vacation."

Donaire has formed friendships with the other two big names in Bay Area boxing: Oakland's Andre Ward, the 2004 Olympic gold medalist, and Robert Guerrero, the former featherweight champion from Gilroy. He has trained in the East Bay hills with Ward, whose father sometimes slipped Donaire a few extra bucks.

Things aren't as familial with Glenn Sr., who trains fighters in the Philippines. Though Donaire no longer speaks to his father by phone or even text messages, he claims they're on good terms when they're around each other: "My family is weird."

After years of waiting, Donaire seemingly can't slow down, even for his father. If he beats Concepcion, Donaire is determined to get fights with Fernando Montiel and Jorge Arce, the two biggest names at 115 pounds, before moving up, perhaps eventually to lightweight.

And after knocking out Raul Martinez in front of 17,000 roaring Filipinos in Quezon City in April, Donaire would love to fight in the Bay Area, where the Bohol boy's life first turned in this improbable direction.

"When I get out here, people are going to be sitting on people's laps," he said, wrapping his fists tight. "That's another dream of mine."

TAKE CHARGE

No savings at 30?

Editor's Note: This is part of Take Charge of Your Money, a partnership between INQUIRER.net and Citibank to help readers handle their personal finances well.

Question: I just turned 30 years old and realized I have been working for almost a decade and have little to show for it. I'm ashamed to say that I don't have much savings. Although I work, there doesn't seem to be enough left to set aside. What should I do?

Answer: Working is one of life's simple joys. With it, we can put to use our talents and learn more about the industry we are in and its impact in the economy. By working, we can meet new friends and contribute

to society. Plus we get to earn from working which can help provide for our families' needs.

Because we cannot predict the future and cannot be assured of a job forever, it is important to save money. This will tide us over should we lose our jobs, or get sick, or the time comes when we need to retire from active work.

At 30, you should start saving for your future now, and more so since you weren't able to start earlier. Ideally, saving should have been a habit begun while still a child. This would then become a well-ingrained habit throughout life. But do not worry; it's not yet too late. The important thing is you have realized how important it is to save, and commit to do so beginning today.

You actually raised an interesting question: How can you save when there doesn't seem to be enough left for savings? This is a dilemma most people face. How can you save when all your take-home money is used up by the end of the month (and may even be living on credit until the next pay day)?

The answer is quite simple. Instead of waiting until there is money left after paying your bills and other expenses, do it the other way: Save first before spending a single peso from your take-home pay. This is what financial experts mean when they say "Pay yourself first." It means treating savings as a bill which you have to prioritize over any other bill or expense. By doing this, you will be able to stash away money for your savings which would otherwise have been spent on something you think you need but actually can live without.

You may think it's easy to say but hard to do. The truth is,

saving can be done by anyone. Here are five easy steps on how to build up your savings easily:

▶ As soon as you receive your salary, take out a certain percentage, start with 5 percent, and put this in an envelope you will mark "Savings." Live on what is left of your salary.

▶ Do not touch your savings if funds are running low a few days before your next payday. Instead, adjust your spending so that your funds will be enough until payday.

▶ Open a separate savings account in the bank and deposit the funds you have set aside in your "Savings" envelope.

▶ Deposit to your savings account every payday to ensure that the money earmarked for your savings will not be spent.

Once you have built up your savings a little bit, transfer some of it to a time deposit so it can earn a higher rate of interest. Later on, you can also move some of your funds to a mutual fund or unit investment

trust fund so it can possibly earn even more interest. These investments have a risk attached to them, so discuss first with the bank or financial advisor if these are right for you.

One other important thing to do is to make a budget or spending plan. Write your projected income and expenses and see where you can cut down on spending. For instance, look at how you spend for your lunch every day. If you regularly buy food, think of bringing baon lunch to work. The excess funds freed (maybe about P500 a month) may then be added to your savings.

What can you use your savings for? It can be money for your retirement. You might think that at 30, retirement is so far away. However, saving for it now can make your money grow faster for you even if you put in only a small amount of money regularly. It is due to compound interest, which lets your money earn interest on

top of money that has already earned interest.

Your savings can also be your emergency fund. This should be equal to three to six months' (even more) worth of expenses, which should be helpful when sudden unforeseen events occur: a job loss, an illness, etcetera.

Savings is doable. Start today and keep at it for a long long time.

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Maharlika – PinoyStyle

Jessica Soho and Noynoy Aquino?

By **DOLLY ANNE CARVAJAL**
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—If there's one local TV show I hardly miss, it's "Kapuso Mo, Jessica." I totally like Jessica Soho's style. I tease her: "Heard that Kris Aquino is pairing you off with Noynoy!"

Jessica, laughing, explains: "She was only joking 'cause Noynoy and I were seated next to each other in the van. Basta I'm forever grateful to Kris for giving me and my crew access for coverage of her mom's wake and burial and for letting me ride with them on the way to Manila Memorial." Isn't Noynoy her type? "Let's not even go there," she says. "Noynoy himself said that he has a girlfriend." I chide her: "GFs are subject to change. She's not yet his wife."

For a moment, the serious broadcast journalist in Jessica turned giggly. It's high time Jessica lives up to her top-rating show's title and find her Kapuso.

No politics for Ai Ai

Ai Ai de las Alas is all fired up to shoot a movie with Erap. "Papa Erap and I portray a married couple with six kids," Ai says. "Five boys and one girl, to be played by Toni Gonzaga, ang mga anak namin. Mananahi na housewife ang role ko."

How will she prepare for their much-awaited kissing scene? "I'll brush my teeth ng bonggang bonnga," she says.

What political advice will she give Erap? "Allegeric ako sa politics," she says. "Pumayag ako to do this movie not for political agenda. It's for the sake of art and history. It's an honor na makasama ko ang isa sa mga hari ng pelikulang Pilipino."

Although Ai is involved in charity work, she says, "Di naman kailangan may posisyon ka para makatulong. "Even if Pinoy politics is such a crazy circus, the Concert Comedy Queen would rather not be one of its clowns.

A blog for Dong

Dingdong Dantes was so inspired when he awarded the winners of the "Goldilocks You're the 1 Blog Awards" that he vowed to everyone present that he would soon start his own blog.

According to Dong, it's something he always wanted to do because the catharsis would be good for him. I wonder what secrets of the heart his online journal will reveal.

Just friends

Is model Francis Ricafort (Alma Moreno's nephew) the new man in Liz Uy's life after John Lloyd

Cruz? They are often spotted together. Once upon a time, he was linked to Camille Pratts.

"They just hang out together," says Francis' sister LJ Moreno, "because they have the same group. Friends lang sila." I chide LJ: "No show biz answers, please." She retorts: "Totoong totoo ang sagot ko."

But with Liz's charms, it's not unlikely for Francis to eventually fall for her. Love is just a few heartbeats away from friendship.

Careful, Anne

Anne Curtis is still recuperating from her car accident. Poor Anne! After the robbery in her home, she figured in a mishap. Since she was the one at fault, she shouldered all the damages.

Anne better take extra care because, as superstition goes, misfortune always comes in threes.

Giving back

"Eat Bulaga" is not moving from GMA 7 to TV5, clarifies Malou Fagar, the show's chief operating officer. "We won't have a 30th anniversary celebration," she says. "Instead we will give back to our viewers by sending 30 scholars to school and touring the country with our "Kaserola ng Kabayanan," a raffle promo and more to be announced." Here's to more years of being EATerrific!

Cristine Reyes' gorgeous date

Cristine Reyes took a gorgeous date



Ai Ai de las Alas is all fired up to shoot a movie with Erap.

named Gio to the birthday bash of show biz reporter Nelson Canlas at Linden Suites. Gio, Cristine's childhood sweetheart, is an Atenean activist.

They have no commitment just yet but from the looks of it, they're getting there. After her on-and-off romance with Dennis Trillo, Cristine is finally giving her heart another chance to find happiness. FHM's Sexiest Woman's body is in great shape—and so is her heart.

Mystery guy

Another gorgeous girl who's back in the dating jungle is Karylle. K enjoyed watching "The Proposal" with her mystery guy.

"It will be unfair to talk about him at this point," she says. "It's not exactly dating, but learning from new people because I won't grow if I limit myself to a certain clique."

Will K's heart find the clique that clicks with its every beat? Will the guy take the cue from the movie they watched and propose to K anytime soon?

Not her man

Rhian Ramos is ecstatic about bagging the much-coveted role of Jodi in GMA 7's adaptation of the Korean hit telenovela "Stairway to Heaven."

Any apprehensions about portraying Jodi? "It's gonna take more energy, focus and depression than any other character I've done," Rhian says.

Isn't she wary that her team-up with Dingdong Dantes might make Marian Rivera jealous? "I really hope no jealousy attacks will occur," she quips. But is it possible for her to fall for Dong? "It's possible to fall for anyone I work with especially because of the amount of time, trust and teamwork the show requires," she explains. "But I won't give my heart to anyone I'm not meant to be with, either for personal or professional reasons."

Hmm ... Rhian has no intentions of taking the stairway to Dong's heaven.

Carlo J's statement

The ongoing brouhaha about the National Artist award is such a sensitive matter. Artists are entitled to their eccentricities. It's just sad when their passion for the arts collide.

From Tita Donna Villa, wife of Direk Carlo J. Caparas: "Carlo J has been helping lots of people through his big hits patronized by the public in komiks, movies and TV. Gusto ng mga detractors ni Carlo na siran si President Arroyo using her choice of National Artists. The title connotes a perimeter of national honor, not sectoral. Kapag sila ang nananalo, natutuwa kami at walang reklamo. Kapag galing sa hanay natin sa show biz, masyado nila tayong minamaliit."

Why crucify Carlo J for an award

he didn't beg for? Hopefully, this mess will be ironed out not just for art's sake. One art, one heart.



Anne Curtis is still recuperating from her car accident.

RUSHES

As good as it gets: Bosses' shouting match

By **THE INQUIRER ENTERTAINMENT STAFF**
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Now, for a reality check.

Although people would like to think that everything went smoothly during the coverage of former President Corazon Aquino's five-day wake and funeral, there was a slight glitch. All right, not so slight.

Top network Entertainment Official reportedly engaged similarly ranked News Executive in a shouting match.

Apparently, EO got miffed because of a news item that put one of the channel's talents (and EO's pal) in a bad light. Instead of helping the station's star, the report buried Controversial Celebrity deeper in muck.

Another powerful Entertainment Exec sided with EO and purportedly spilled the beans to the press. EE was irked because NE allegedly bypassed the former and made a decision that eventually sparked a huge scandal—again involving CC.

Scapegoat

Quite belatedly, Concerned Friend said CC was just a "scapegoat" and that a string of intrigues linked to CC was orchestrated by influential politicians to divert attention from their own shenanigans. Funny thing is, CF is involved in CC's latest caper.

All's not well—no!

Moreover, the apparent ceasefire between the top two warring networks during the Cory coverage was fragile at best.

A Kapuso Insider complained of "minor" irritants that, in TV Land, could quickly become "major." Alas, KI chose to keep mum, to honor the memory of Tita Cory.

Twitting at the park

In her Twitter account, Miriam Quiambao wrote that fellow beauty queen Ruffa Gutierrez got "nervous" because of a supposed bomb scare at the Manila Memorial Park during Tita Cory's funeral.

The two beauties attended the interment and were in the middle of the action, so to speak. Fortunately, the threat turned out to be a dud.

Missing Willie

Instead of addressing the latest con-

troversy plaguing his career on "Wowowee," host Willie Revillame went missing last Saturday.

He wasn't feeling well, said co-host Mariel Rodriguez on air. A source told Rushes that Revillame has taken an "indefinite leave of absence" from the show.

"He's gone soul-searching in his Tagaytay rest house," said an insider. "He wants to think about what happened and is contemplating a big decision soon."

Top of the talk shows

For those who missed last weekend's gabfests on TV. (And why we are moved, if we are moved.)

Rufa Mae Quinto, asked if an "influential politician" gave her a house in San Francisco, California as a gift: "Yung regalo, partly ... hindi lahat. Grabe naman, part pa lang. Hindi, ano, may binigay siya, pero hindi 'yung bahay." (Ano raw?)

Rufa Mae, asked who this person is: "Secret nga eh kasi para tahimik. At saka bawal eh. I'm sure naman. I'm sure [he's in politics]." (Oh, sure.)

Rhian Ramos, asked if there's reason for Marian Rivera to "worry," with her (Rhian's) pairing with Dingdong Dantes in an upcoming soap: "Kahit single ako ngayon, wala naman siyang dapat ika-worry. Kailangan ngayon pa lang, may line na ... between what's work and what's personal." (In short, 'di niya type si Dong?)

Mark Anthony Fernandez on her mom Alma Moreno's alleged bad debts: "Ngayon ko lang nabalitaan ito. I hope it's not true. But if it is, she can pay, no problem." (Good answer.)

Marian Rivera, asked how she spent her birthday with Dingdong Dantes: "Kumain lang sa labas kasama yung family niya." (That's not a whole day, is it?)

Sam Milby, after Bea Alonzo slapped him while doing an intense dramatic scene from their upcoming movie: "Pumunta ako sa hospital ... may butas sa eardrum ko." (Baka may history ang slap na 'yon a?)

Sam, asked if there was a possibility he would fall for Bea: "Of course it's a possibility. I don't think there's a guy who wouldn't like a girl like Bea." (Of course. Anything is possible when promoting a movie.) *With Gerry Plaza, (Startalk, The Buzz)*

GMA actor Aljur faces sex raps

By **Tetch Torres**
INQUIRER.NET

MANILA, Philippines—Actor Aljur Abrenica is facing acts of lasciviousness charges for allegedly touching the private parts of a vacationing 15-year-old girl in the resort town of Puerto Galera last summer.

The National Bureau of Investigation filed the complaint against the GMA

Network actor based on the testimony of the teenager and her mother.

The teenager said she and her sister met Abrenica last April while they were on a Holy Week break in Puerto Galera, in the province of Oriental Mindoro.

Abrenica treated the non-showbiz teenager to alcoholic drinks, they further claimed.

While lying on the beach with the actor, the complaint said Abren-

ica "continued touching the victim's hands, arms, sides and again his hands brushing the side of her breasts, buttocks and waist."

Abrenica in previous interviews denied the allegations.

Reached for comment, Jhops Cruz of GMA Network's Corporate Communication declined comment until the broadcast giant gets a copy of the complaint.

Maharlika – Opinyon

A legacy of unfinished tasks

No President could have wished for a more rewarding funeral than the one that the Filipino people gave President Cory Aquino last Wednesday. The sendoff Cory got was neither a state nor a family event, but a national funeral befitting someone widely regarded as the mother of the nation. It was the long funeral procession, rather than the Mass at the Manila Cathedral or the interment at the Manila Memorial Park, that became the occasion for a grieving and grateful nation to stage its full presence. In the long march to the cemetery, Church and State took the backseat, allowing the people to claim their place in the nation's history. It is time to reflect on what has just happened here.

Cory left a legacy of achievements as well as of unfinished causes. Of the first, most people, especially the young, will remember only her role as an icon of democracy, a courageous widow who refused to be paralyzed by grief, serenely accepting the task of leading the nation's quest for liberation from the tyranny of a home-grown dictatorship. They will likely not remember the less romantic struggle she waged to restore institutions badly damaged by autocratic rule and the prolonged presidency of Ferdinand Marcos.

Cory knew how the country's institutions remained brittle when her term ended in 1992. To her, Philippine democracy would have to be a continuing project. It needed to be deepened, broadened, strengthened, and, most of all, defended. She thought of herself mainly as the president who paved the way to a stable democracy. But, even when she was no longer president, she did not hesitate to come out publicly to denounce recurrent attempts to undermine the institutions she fought hard to restore. That commitment inevitably pitted her against politicians who tried to tinker with the Constitution in order to extend their grip on power.

Filipinos expected miracles to happen during her presidency. The poor expected instant relief from the ravages of poverty. The middle

classes expected a renewed and functioning government to be put in place overnight. After 21 years of oppression, Filipinos wanted freedom without the attendant responsibilities of citizenship. People power became a license and a weapon to defy established authority whenever any vested interests were threatened.

Amid all these, Cory had to defend the supremacy of civilian authority against those who believed that state power had to be shared with the military because of the role they played in bringing down Marcos. Seven coup attempts against her administration failed to weaken Cory's will, but it led her to prioritize political consolidation over social reform. This allowed the conservative forces in society to assert undue influence in her government. The handling of crucial issues like agrarian reform, the foreign debt, the US bases, crony properties, and human rights violations in the previous regime reflected this conservative influence in no uncertain terms. Each one of these became a cause of Cory's isolation from the popular movements that had accompanied her rise to the presidency.

Important as they were, these issues tended to overshadow the quiet work that the embattled president was resolutely undertaking to stabilize and restore the autonomy of the institutions of government. The Supreme Court had lost credibility under Marcos; Cory restored its prestige and independence. The law once more could assume its function as a stable moral code in our nation's life. The civil service had been severely politicized and placed under the disposal of the Marcos regime; Cory revitalized its professional ethos by appointing highly qualified individuals to head the government agencies. She brought in honest and competent individuals to head the financial institutions of the country—the Bureau of Internal Revenue, Customs, the Central

Bank, and other regulatory bodies.

Under Marcos, elections had become nothing but expensive rituals that had little to do with the people's will. Cory brought back the centrality of honest and credible elections to the survival of democracy. The 1992 national elections will long be remembered as one of the most orderly and credible of all our elections. Most importantly, Cory made it very clear that she would not stay a day longer in public office after she handed over the reins of government to her duly-elected successor.

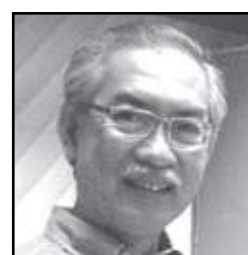
She set a model of presidential demeanor that was marked by a lack of showiness and a disavowal of privilege and the trappings of power. Her inner strength came out as luminous grace, and not once did it manifest itself as bravado or bitchiness. Her exterior was always marked by kindness, humility and simplicity. Some mistook this for weakness and lack of self-confidence. They grossly underestimated her will power.

In death, Cory will continue to be underestimated. Those who feel threatened by the legacy of causes she left behind will try to minimize the meaning of her role in our nation's history. They will reduce

this to acts of personal goodness and piety, and will ignore her active struggle for integrity and honesty in public leadership.

Cory did not just ask Filipinos to love their country in a sentimental way. She urged them not to abandon it, and to look after it, to defend it against those who would misuse their power and betray their oaths of office. Like a true mother of democracy, she lent her residual magic—the way she lent her personal rosary to the wounded and the sick—to those who would stand up to abusive power in the fight for what is good and just.

Comments to public.lives@gmail.com



Public Lives

By RANDY DAVID
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

EDITORIAL

Outrageous spending

No matter which way you cut it, the expenditure of about \$20,000 or almost P1 million on a dinner at the posh Le Cirque Restaurant in New York for President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's group is wrong. It is utterly crass and insensitive of the President's party to spend an amount that could have fed 3,000 families at a time when 3.7 million families are experiencing involuntary hunger.

The lavish spending came at a time when the nation was mourning the death of former President Corazon Aquino, the embodiment of voluntary simplicity and frugality in personal and government spending.

Press Secretary Cerge Remonde said that it was a simple dinner. Let's see how simple it was: The New York Post reported that five servings of Osetra caviar and five of California Osetra caviar were ordered, at a total cost of \$1,900. Twenty-five sets of the chef's seasonal menu were served at a cost of \$1,450 and 25 sets of chef's tasting menu with wine pairing at \$4,500.

The appetizers alone cost \$714, or about P35,000. They included lobster salad, sautéed Gulf shrimp, soft shell crab tempura, wild burgundy escargot and torchon of foie gras. Two sets of main courses were ordered at a total cost of \$1,442 or about P72,000. These included Dover sole, prime dry aged strip steak, saddle of lamb, paupiette of black cod and halibut poached in coconut milk.

Also served tableside for two were three whole roasted fish and three whole roasted chickens. What brought the bill up was an order for 11 bottles of Krug champagne costing \$5,610. Total cost, including tax and service charge/tip: \$19,866.

A report by Malou Mangahas of the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism Monday said that Ms Arroyo's declared net worth more than doubled from P66.8 million in 2001 to P143.54 million in 2008, for a growth rate of 114 percent. People are asking: Did Ms Arroyo pay for the lavish dinner from her "multimillionaire pocket," or did someone else pick up the tab? Here, the statements of her spokespersons are conflicting.

Even Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, one of Ms Arroyo's avid defenders, was scandalized by the "outrageous and outlandish" spending. She said she did not attend the dinner because she was suffering from a chronic fatigue syndrome. She advised those who knew to tell who really paid for the dinner, how much it cost and who attended it and promise that it will not happen again. It sounds like a reasonable suggestion. Instead of issuing convoluted explanations, Malacañang had better tell the whole truth because sooner or later, the truth will out.

© Philippine Daily Inquirer

The solar eclipse of 1955

Antonio Pigafetta describes the last moments of Ferdinand Magellan in Mactan after he was wounded in the arm by a bamboo lance, and had a javelin thrust into his left leg by the defenders of Mactan. Having been recognized and falling on his face, a band of angry Mactan warriors gang up on Magellan and Pigafetta says tearfully, "they slew our mirror, our light, our comfort, and our true guide."

(Where was Lapu-lapu in all this? I leave that to your imagination and a future column.)

Pigafetta's description of Magellan came to mind the other day as I watched the farewell given to Cory Aquino. Seeing the golden sun on the flag that draped her coffin, I realized that while she has passed away, her memory will linger and continue to inspire people more than when she was alive.

The golden sun on our flag seemed brighter than ever before, reminding me of a column I wrote on the recent disappointing solar eclipse. I wrote that there has been no total solar eclipse in living memory and it seems that many people older than I had experienced a total solar eclipse at noon in 1955, long before I was born. I will share their impressions here so that the historian who writes about another eclipse will know how people reacted.

Arturo G. Nazareno of Cavite wrote: "I just don't remember if it was a total or partial solar eclipse but at that time it seemed to me like a total eclipse. I remember that we were asked to bring a piece of glass blacked by candle smoke so we could look at the spectacular sight without damaging our eyesight. We could see the sun slowly being blocked by the moon until there was darkness over the city."

Lina Angsico wrote: "I'm sorry to disappoint you. But perhaps you were not yet born when we had a solar eclipse at about noon time. I was in Grade 2 then in 1955. I don't remember the exact date it happened. That was the time we still spent the whole day in school even in the elementary grades. We were told to go home early for lunch break because there was going to be a solar eclipse. And, indeed, there was! What an experience it turned out to be! There was total darkness for a few minutes. We had to turn on the lights like it was night time. Perhaps you could ask other senior citizens like me."

Liberato Ramos of Quezon City wrote: "I was in grade school in the 1950s when a total solar eclipse occurred at noon. I looked it up and this was on June 20, 1955, and lasted for 7:07 minutes in Southeast Asia, the Philippines and the Pacific Ocean. That means I was in Grade 2, LOL! Our teachers prepared us for this unusual event some days before. We were told not to look at it but asked to go to

the town's photographer for negatives, or to fill up palanganas with water and look at the reflection of the eclipse there. Us kids were greatly amused as the sun turned black with a bright rim (that's how we put it then). We had a big suha tree in the yard and we had plenty of chickens on the range. As day turned into night, the chickens started to roost up the tree. And when the sun started to rise again, our father's fighting cock crowed. That's the picture still clearly etched in my mind. I missed the eclipse this time as I am abroad. But there would be no more chickens on the range roosting.

"I came across a study (I don't know if it has been vetted) on the behavior of makahiya during an eclipse: the leaves close (go on vertical orientation, the study says). The Jesuits who manned the Manila Observatory may have kept records of their observations during total solar eclipses (TSE), although these have nothing to do with the acacia or makahiya. Fr. Federico Faura, for example, organized/led an expedition to the Celebes to observe the TSE in 1868, three years after the observatory was established. During the TSE in June 1929, Fr. Charles Depperman led a team in Cebu to observe the phenomenon. Fr. James Hennessey and his assistant Jesus Torres measured the characteristics of the ionosphere layers during the TSE of June 20, 1955. It's reported that they wrote an article concerning the effect of the shadow of the moon on the ionosphere layers."

Francisco H. Bautista of Parañaque consulted his wife before writing: "I was in high school... Classes might have been suspended (my wife from Paco Catholic School recalls), but I remember we were in our school—Torres High School in Galangin, Tondo, Manila—with our teachers, who provided used X-ray films, wide basins half-filled with water to see the reflection with, and similar paraphernalia. Some of my rich classmates, I seem to recall, had sunglasses (this was before they acquired the hipper term 'shades'). It must have been around noontime. We waited an eternity for the sun to completely darken. But when the light went out, it was an eerie feeling. I don't recall how long it lasted. It was brief, not as long as the six or more minutes reported in some parts of Asia, but I could not be sure. I wonder why you could not find any record of this awesome event. Yielding to your authority in our history, then maybe my wife and I were living in a dream."

One of the wonderful things about living in the 21st century is that columnists get immediate responses and as always I welcome letters that also look back and teach me about a world before my own.

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu



Looking Back

By AMBETH OCAMPO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Samu't Sari

By JOHN M. GLIONNA
(C) 2009, LOS ANGELES TIMES

MANILA, Philippines—Every night without fail, Jim Turner is there at the far corner of the bar, chain-smoking his Marlboros and sipping ice-cold San Miguel beer from the bottle, watching over the Little Ones.

He considers them family, but they're not his children. They're the dwarfs and other little people the 70-year-old Iowa native has rescued from the heartless streets of this capital city to offer them friendship and honest work.

For 35 years, the former Peace Corps volunteer has operated the Hobbit House, a bar themed on J.R.R. Tolkien's fantasy novels, a realm marked by all things miniature.

Under his care, hundreds of dwarfs have adopted new cultural identities. They're no longer shunned or even feared as supposed evil spirits, but have become popular characters called hobbits—merry figures who serve drinks, crack ribald jokes and even entertain onstage.

At Turner's bar, on a dingy block of strip clubs and speak-easies in central Manila, the dwarfs draw a loyal crowd. They're entertainers who get the joke,



"Hobbit" Edward Noble, 24, walks through the large, circular, hand-painted door of the Hobbit House.

LOS ANGELES TIMES

Hobbit House: A little place of their own



LOS ANGELES TIMES

Former Peace Corps volunteer Jim Turner, 70, at the Hobbit House bar and restaurant in Manila, sits in his customary spot at the end of the bar.

always ready to use their small size for a few good-natured laughs.

The Hobbit House features what may be the world's smallest Elvis impersonator. There have been hobbit jugglers, comics, dancers, flame-eaters and a singer who sounded eerily like Frank Sinatra.

Many of the waiters and bartenders are the grandchildren of the dwarfs who helped Turner launch the bar. There's now even a second location, at a tourist resort in the central Philippines.

Yet critics have accused Turner of exploiting his workers. Stubbing out a Marlboro, he frowns.

"We took many from the worst slums in Manila, where they were mocked and ridiculed," he says. "Now they're no longer carnival freaks. They're respected entertainers and businesspeople."

And Turner is their godfather. Workers tell of the night when two drunken Australians began playing catch with terrified little people; Turner stepped

between two ruffians nearly twice his size and threw them out of the bar.

He has provided many of his workers with loans and housing and has paid tuitions. Several years ago, he gave them something perhaps even more precious: the Hobbit House itself.

He founded a corporation, naming seven of his employees the main stockholders. Now they make the decisions and call the shots. From his perch at the bar, Turner watches over the business as a consultant and takes only enough salary to pay his bills.

The dwarfs call him "tito" and "kuya," "uncle" and "older brother."

Pidoy Fetalino, a 35-year veteran of the bar, likes to stroll into business meetings, raise his hand to greet average-sized clients and proudly announce that he's the establishment's general manager.

Over drinks after the bar closes, he gets emotional about Turner, who has helped him put two children through college and discover self-respect.

"He's our protector, a big man with a big heart," Fetalino says. "One day he said to us: 'This Hobbit House belongs to all of you. You earned it.' A lot of us cried that day."

One afternoon, Turner sits on the street-side patio as colorful jeepneys race past, their horns blaring, seats filled with passengers.

An elderly dwarf limps in with two small men. Naida Morehon retired from the Hobbit House two years ago when her knees gave out. Her husband died last year and she needed money.

As always, Turner took care of things. "Hi, Naida," he says, lighting a cigarette. "Did you get the check?"

She hurries to embrace him. Seated, Turner is face to face with Morehon, who places her small hand on his cheek.

"I did, Tito," she says. "What would we do without you?"

Turner arrived in the Philippines in 1961, a young idealist out to change the world. Among the first group of Peace Corps volunteers in the country, he taught English for two years in a rural province, then moved back to Manila.

Slowly, he became consumed by this poor, exotic and often-maddening country. He wanted to stay. After years in Manila, Iowa seemed more like the foreign country.

He did odd jobs, eventually becoming a television station manager. That's when he was introduced to his first dwarfs.

"We ran a lot of variety shows where we cast midgets, dwarfs and transvestites," says Turner, a graying man with bushy eyebrows. "They were a staple of TV then."

In 1972, then-President Ferdinand Marcos declared martial law and shut down the station. Turner needed work, so he and some friends came up with an idea for a theme bar.

He'd read Tolkien's books as a boy in Cedar Rapids and knew that little people were easy to find in Manila. His first stop was a business called Central Casting, where he hired two dwarfs to work as doormen. Word got out and little people from all over the country began asking for work.

Soon Turner was overrun with little people. They worked as waiters and bar-



LOS ANGELES TIMES

"Hobbit," Ali de la Cruz, 27, serves food at the Hobbit House bar and restaurant in Manila, now in its fourth decade of operation.

tenders and he built them miniature sets of stairs that they climbed to conduct business at the towering wooden bar.

But they soon wanted more: They asked to entertain. So Turner let them have the stage for vaudeville-type acts that featured little people as the big stars. His first performer was a woman named Little Lucy, who ate fire and juggled, balanced on a fulcrum.

"For a while," Turner recalls, "everyone wanted to be an Elvis impersonator."

Often, life at the Hobbit House was surreal.

In one act, a dwarf dressed as a security guard patrolled with a Great Dane three times his size. On New Year's Eve, some of the performers wear diapers and bonnets and carry rattles onstage to become tottering symbols of the infant year.

For a while, after an employee's uncle closed his pet store, monkeys roamed the bar. There were parrots, turkeys, an eagle and even an alligator. Turner eventually found homes for them too.

During martial law, the bar became the watering hole of the city's political subversives: anti-Marcos reactionaries, U.S. spies, protesters on the run from the law.

In the mid-1970s, when Francis Ford Coppola filmed "Apocalypse Now" in the Philippines, the Hobbit House was a regular hangout for the director, actors and crew, Turner says, doing his impersonation of Marlon Brando shouting for another drink.

Over the years, he learned that not all of the hobbits were fairy-tale characters. He had to fire some who stole from the till. But Turner quickly recognized the ones he could trust.

They are people like Fetalino. He started as a cashier, but when Turner heard he'd had two years of college, he sent Fetalino for management training. He has been general manager for 15 years.

"You see the hurdles they scale," Turner says, "and you realize that no matter how many problems you have, if you're average size in this world, you've got the game half-won."

The Monday rush is here and the workers at the Hobbit House are ready for action.

But sitting around a table, a few quietly voice a common concern: What would they ever do without the nurturing and guidance of Jim Turner?

Although he swears he's in perfect health, they know he drinks and smokes

too much. A decade ago, when he got sick, a large group of employees went to visit him in the hospital. An exhausted Turner had to tell nurses not to admit any visitor shorter than 4 feet tall.

Many of them say it gives them comfort knowing he's there at his perch, with a green lamp by his side so he can see bills and paperwork in the darkened bar.

But they know he's getting older and more frail.

Perhaps Waiter Edward Vitto, 33, said it best: "It won't be the same place without him—just a bunch of little people with broken hearts."

YoungStyle

Gaelan Connell, from Basement to 'Bandslam'

By LAVANYA RAMANATHAN
(C) 2009, THE WASHINGTON POST

Mop-top actor Gaelan Connell has come a long way from his days playing with his band, Exist, in his parents' Silver Spring, Md., basement. Suddenly, he is the star of the movie "Bandslam," which opens Friday. That's him on the movie poster, posing alongside Vanessa Hudgens and Aly Michalka. That's him in the gossip columns, kissing Hudgens (for the movie, of course!).

But it hasn't gone to Connell's head. His big brothers, Brendan and Shawn, make sure of that.

"They call me and they're like, 'You know, Gaelan, brother to brother, no matter what you do, you're not going to be cool,'" he says.

Luckily, being cool wasn't in the job description. The tween comedy follows kids at a New Jersey high school that is fanatical about one thing: the annual "American Idol"-style band competition, called Bandslam. Connell, 20, plays Will Burton, a high school nerd who is tapped by a beautiful, popular classmate (Michalka) to help her form a band that could win.

"This character I'm playing now in 'Bandslam' is a little too close to home, being awkward and nerdy," jokes Connell, who used to play competitive chess, make home movies and play cello. "Will has an encyclopedic knowledge of music, but his mom is his best friend."

"This is just me, re-creating my life," Connell says.

After high school, Connell went to New York University to study filmmaking (he was sure he'd be better suited for something behind the camera). But when he heard about "Bandslam," he decided to audition for the role of Will. He got it even though his only previous movie roles were bit parts in a 2004 John Waters film and in "Chocolat," almost 10 years ago.

So, how was it working side by side with Hudgens and Michalka and getting to meet Zac Efron?

"Once you really break through the bubble, they're more than normal," Connell says. "They've had so much scrutiny put on them, I think that they know more than others who they are."



Mop-top actor Gaelan Connell has come a long way from his days playing with his band in his parents' basement.

FUN FACTS

Instruments he plays

Guitar and cello. "I thought, if I have to play an instrument, I'm going to play the biggest instrument I can play," Connell says. "It was probably just like an act of rebellion."

About his name

Gaelan is a Gaelic name, and it's pronounced "GALE-en." But it's his last name that's the tongue twister: Connell is actually pronounced "kuh-NELL."

Pet

A dog named Calypso. ("He's kind of a golden retriever.")

Favorite band

"I've been listening to a lot of Cracker. And a certain Miley Cyrus song that I won't name because I'm too embarrassed."

Favorite sports team

"I'm a huge Redskins fan. Even though it's a heartbreak, season after season."

By FRED BOWEN
Special to
The Washington Post



Bowen is an author of sports novels for kids.

Summer thoughts on sports

While you read this, I'm lying on a beach or playing golf in New England. Which means it's time for my annual column of random thoughts about sports. But recently I realized that my column of random sports thoughts is really ... a blog. Or, OMG ... tweets! So here is this year's vacation thoughts column ... blog ... or tweets.

■ Everybody talks about the 1962 New York Mets (40 wins, 120 losses) as the worst team in the history of baseball. The worst team was the 1899 Cleveland Spiders. Their record was 20 wins and 134 losses. The Spiders were so bad they disbanded after the season.

■ Can anyone explain why there are so many ties in Major League Soccer? Look at D.C. United. About half of the team's matches have ended in ties. I guess because the games are low-scoring, the chance of a tie goes way up.

■ Maybe MLS teams should play a 15-minute overtime period, with seven players on a side and no goalies. I think that would be real exciting.

■ I know lots of fans are excited about the Washington Redskins' preseason. But will someone please wake me up on Sept. 13, when the real games start? Preseason football is boring.

■ I still feel bad that 59-year-old golfer Tom Watson didn't win the British Open. But isn't it amazing he came so close to winning the championship?

■ How about the golfer who won the women's British Open, Catriona Matthew? She won the tournament just 10 weeks after she gave birth to her second child. Now that's a cool mom.

■ Did you see Tiger Woods at the British Open? I hope not. Tiger spent most of his time smashing his clubs into the ground and using words no KidsPost readers should use. Tiger's a dad now; he should watch his language.

■ I'm glad swimming officials outlawed those high-tech swimsuits. It should be the swimmer who wins the race, not the swimsuit.

■ But what should they do with the 43 world records set at the recent world championships? And the more than 170 world records that have been set since swimmers started wearing the skintight suits? Maybe they should put an asterisk beside the records to explain they were set while wearing a super-duper swimsuit.

■ I thought that the Washington Nationals' recent trades of first baseman Nick Johnson and reliever Joe Beimel would make the Nats worse for the rest of the season. Surprise: They are suddenly the hottest team in baseball.

Summer book club: They fought for freedom, secretly

By MARGARET WEBB PRESSLER
(C) 2009, THE WASHINGTON POST

Harriet Tubman, Secret Agent
By Thomas B. Allen
Ages 9-13
192 pages



THE WASHINGTON POST

You may well know about the courageous ex-slave who led many to freedom through the Underground Railroad. But "Harriet Tubman, Secret Agent," by Thomas B. Allen, reveals her little-known work as a spy for the Union Army during the Civil War.

The years leading up to the Civil War in America were difficult times. There was a growing tension between those who supported slavery—especially landowners who relied on the free labor of slaves — and the abolitionists, people who wanted to end slavery.

Harriet Tubman, an escaped slave, was deeply involved in the battle, risking her life over and over as she helped other slaves escape. With clear writing that conveys the drama of the time, this book shows just how courageous Tubman was during a frightening time in American history.

The book really shines in its descriptions of how Tubman and many slaves and former slaves worked for the Union Army as spies during the Civil War. Slaves at the homes of wealthy landowners and Confederate officers listened in on conversations, then delivered messages in code, while free blacks posed as slaves to pick up the codes. The messages carried information about planned attacks. The slaves used means of communication that nobody would suspect, such as putting messages in hollowed-out eggs delivered with

CIVIL WAR FACT

Dogs were sometimes used as messengers during the Civil War.

YOU MIGHT ALSO LIKE...

If you liked learning about the exploits of Harriet Tubman during the Civil War, you might like reading about another incredible drama from that time: the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln. The book "Chasing Lincoln's Killer," by James L. Swanson, is nonfiction but reads like a thriller as it takes you through the plot to kill the president and the effort to solve the crime. (*The Washington Post*)

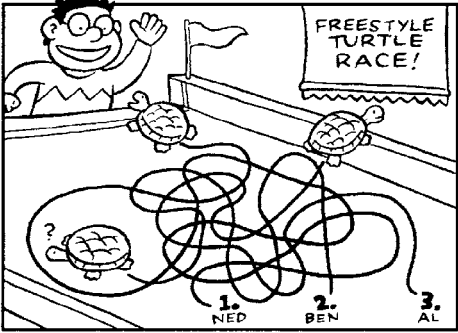
READ ABOUT IT, THEN DO IT!

After reading about Harriet Tubman, learn more about the era she lived in with a trip to Harpers Ferry, a quaint town in the mountains of West Virginia with a rich Civil War history and many kids' activities. Tubman worked closely with a white businessman named John Brown as he hatched a plan to end slavery by attacking white slaveholders with his own army. Tubman eventually dropped out of the plan. Brown's raid on Harpers Ferry failed in October 1859, helping start the Civil War. (*The Washington Post*)

a basket of fresh eggs, or arranging laundry on the line to convey a secret message. Most of these heroes worked anonymously and were never honored for the contribution they made to the country during the Civil


War. Still, it's exciting to learn their clever tricks.

The code used by one spy is even included in the back of the book, which readers can use to decipher the coded messages placed throughout the text.



YOU HAVE 30 SECONDS to find out who won the race, which is a lot faster than the winner's time!

Answer: Ned won, in 5 minutes, 23 seconds.



by Charles Barry Townsend

I HOPE YOU "DIG" THIS PUZZLE!

1.	D	I	G						
2.	D	I	G						
3.	D	I	G						
4.			D	I	G				
5.			D	I	G				
6.			D	I	G				
7.			D	I	G				
8.			D	I	G				
9.			D	I	G				

Six right (out of nine) will get you out of this "word pit." To the left is a list of nine words, each of which contains the word "dig."

Using the following hints, see if you can figure out what these words are:

1. To absorb mentally.
2. To raise the status of.
3. To stray from the point.
4. An impoverished person.
5. This will make you blue.
6. A factor in buying a dog.
7. A returning wasteful son.
8. A very smart person.
9. A festive party.

Answers: 1. Digest, 2. Dignify, 3. Digress, 4. Indigent, 5. Indigo, 6. Pedigree, 7. Prodigal, 8. Prodigy, 9. Shindig.

Illustrated by David Coulson

A BARNYARD TEASER! Out in Farmer Brown's pasture, you'll find 300 sheep, 3 shepherds, 2 horses and 3 dogs. How many feet can you count?

Answer: Six feet. All the others are hoofs and paws.

IT'S MAGIC! Use the numbers 2 through 12 to fill in this Magic Number Square. The numbers in each horizontal row and vertical column and even the four corner squares must total 39. We've filled in five of the squares. The rest is up to you. Use trial and error — and a good eraser!

			16	
15				13
	18			
				17

Answers: First row: 9, 12, 16, 2, Second row: 15, 3, 8, 13, Third row: 4, 18, 10, 7, Fourth row: 11, 6, 5, 17.

Strange BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

- It was Canadian educator Laurence J. Peter who made the following sage observation: "An intelligence test sometimes shows a man how smart he would have been not to have taken it."
- You might (or then again, you might not) be surprised to learn that in this country, the most popular meal, for both lunch and dinner, is a sandwich. And the beverage to go along with that meal is more than likely going to be a soda.
- If you're like the average home-owning American, you can paint the entire exterior of your house with 30 gallons of paint. If you're the president, though, it takes quite a bit more: The White House requires 570 gallons to cover it.
- You've probably been to a restaurant with a dessert called Death by Chocolate, but the real-life event is less appetizing. A worker in New Jersey recently fell into a vat of boiling chocolate and perished before co-workers were able to pull him out.

- It seems that Japan has a vending machine for just about anything you can think of—even fresh eggs. Here's how it works: The machine has about 10 doors, behind each of which is a mesh bag full of eggs. You drop in coins totaling about \$2 to unlock one of the doors. Simply open the door, pull out your eggs and be on your merry way!
- The town of Waco, Texas, has an entire museum dedicated to the popular soda Dr Pepper. Even more surprising is the fact that it gets more than a hundred visitors a day, on average.

Thought for the Day: "There are two types of people—those who come into a room and say, 'Well, here I am!' and those who come in and say, 'Ah, there you are.'"—Frederick L. Collins

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MAGIC MAZE • FIRST NAME RECOGNITION

H R O L I F C Z W T Q N K I F
C Z W U R P M J H E C Z X U S
Q N L J G E Y D E C Z X V T R
P N L J H A E E C I A Y W V T
R P N L Y Y S N N K D I G E C
B Z X K W R V Z R T H L N U S
R P O M C L A E A C I A O J I
G E D I B A G L H S I R R G E
A Y G X W I R E L C Z M B P B
U A T S T Q R A S I V L E P O
M O N L K J Y B B U H C L D K

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Barack	Chubby	Hillary	Oprah
Britney	Demi	Kobe	Tiger
Cher	Denzel	LeBron	Zsa Zsa
Chevy	Elvis	Magic	

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY: ★★★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult ★★★ GO FIGURE!

	x		-		20
+		÷		+	
	+		+		21
x		+		÷	
	x		-		7
14		7		3	

2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 9

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MAGIC MAZE ANSWER

GO FIGURE ANSWER

8		7	14		
7	5	-	6	x	2
	+		+		x
21	8	+	6	+	4
	+		÷		+
20	7	-	9	x	3

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Yes, you can groom a cat

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: How do I groom a cat? Is that even possible?—Ruth H., via e-mail

DEAR RUTH: Sure, it's both possible and advisable, no matter how much your cat tries to convince you it isn't. While cats tend to be fairly clean and neat, they do need to be checked on periodically for their own health.

Here are some basic cat grooming tips:

- Long-haired cats must be brushed daily to prevent tangles and mats. Don't tug at tangled hair; instead, work out the hair using a grooming comb. Medium- and short-haired cats can be brushed every two weeks or longer if their coats are clean.

- If a cat is prone to "eye goo"—excess tears spilling over the lower eyelid, creating a gluey brown substance just below the eyes—gently dab the area with a soft cloth soaked in lukewarm water, repeating until the goo loosens up.

- Check the cat's ears each time it is brushed. Look for debris in the outer ear and note if any unpleasant odor comes from the ear, signaling yeast or bacterial infection. See the vet if you suspect an infection. Otherwise, gently wipe away debris, from the outer ear only, with a cotton swab dipped in a special ear-cleaning solution (available from the vet or at pet stores).

- Brush your cat's teeth daily if possible, using a brush and flavored paste designed for cats. It may take a few weeks



for your cat to get used to toothbrushing, so be patient and encouraging.

- Nails must be trimmed regularly as well—once a month, usually. Your vet or groomer can show you how to safely trim the cat's nails. Again, this takes a bit of patience, and you should use clippers designed for cats.

- Bathing doesn't have to happen too often for cats; once a month is more than enough. Use only shampoo formulated for cats. If a cat's coat seems very greasy, overly matted or dull, consult your veterinarian to rule out illness or allergies.

■ ■ ■

Send your tips, questions and comments to Paw's Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or e-mail them to pawscorner@hotmail.com.

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Put a little flower power in your life

“You can have your cake and blossoms too,” was the greeting my friend Janet proclaimed when she arrived for coffee time on my deck last week.

Carrying a freshly baked Blueberry-Lime Pound Cake recipe from Fine Cooking magazine, the allure of her culinary presentation wasn't just about the yummy cake. Ringing the confection were eye-popping clusters of bright orange and yellow organic nasturtiums. The delightful decoration of natural blooms she had just picked from her garden turned a simple get-together into an event.

Tap into the power of fresh flowers that are in full bloom right now.

Let your kids pick their favorites and enjoy "flower play" as you create something together. It can be as easy as tossing rose petals down the center of your dinner table. There's an idea for everyone.

1. Set a pretty bloom and floating candles in a clear glass bowl or wide-mouthed vase half-filled with water. Set on a patio table and light the candles for an al-fresco family supper.

2. Tuck an aromatic gardenia in your daughter's hair for an eye-catching 'do. No need for perfume with nature's floral scent.

3. Press a flower in a summer journal. It will be a treasured keepsake when you thumb through the pages this winter.

4. Make a basic arrangement in a water-filled vase following the simple principle of using a focal flower, such as a rose, and adding a few smaller flowers, such as daisies, along with a pretty vine or hosta leaves. When kids do the creating, the look will be less contrived

Donna's Day Creative family fun
by Donna Erickson



and more informal. Name the flowers as you clip and arrange them together.

5. At a family party, top an ice-cream cone or cupcakes with edible flowers such as pansies and johnny jump-ups. Or, for a unique presentation, arrange a few nontoxic flowers in a narrow jar or vase, and place it in the center space of an angel food cake.

■ ■ ■

Donna Erickson's award-winning television series "Donna's Day" airs on public television nationwide. Visit www.donnasday.com to find out when it airs on your local PBS station and to sign up for Donna's e-newsletter.

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Distributed by King Features Synd.

Life & Style

Guitar legend-inventor Les Paul dies at age 94

NEW YORK (AP)—Les Paul, the guitar virtuoso and inventor who revolutionized music and created rock 'n' roll as surely as Elvis Presley and the Beatles by developing the solid-body electric guitar and multitrack recording, died Thursday at age 94.

Known for his lightning-fast leads, Paul performed with some of early pop's biggest names and produced a slew of hits, many with wife Mary Ford. But it was his inventive streak that made him universally revered by guitar gods as their original ancestor and earned his induction into the

Rock and Roll Hall of Fame as one of the most important forces in popular music.

Paul, who died in White Plains, N.Y., of complications from pneumonia, was a tireless tinkerer, whose quest for a particular sound led him to create the first solid-body electric guitar, a departure from the hollow-body guitars of the time. His invention paved the way for modern rock 'n' roll and became the standard instrument for legends like Pete Townshend and Jimmy Page.

He also developed technology that would become hallmarks of

rock and pop recordings, from multitrack recording that allowed for layers and layers of "overdubs" to guitar reverb and other sound effects.

"He was truly the cornerstone of popular music," said Henry Juskiewicz, chairman and CEO of Gibson Guitar, which mass produced Paul's original invention. "He was futurist, and unlike some futurists who write about it and predict things, he was guy who actually did things."

Paul remained an active performer until his last months: He put out his very first rock

album just four years ago, and up until recently played every week at a New York jazz club.

The news of his death prompted an outpouring of tributes from the music world.

"Les lived a very long life and he got to a lot of his goals, so I'm happy for him in that respect. ... At least he realized that he was legend in his own time while he was alive" said Richie Sambora, Bon Jovi's guitarist and a friend of Paul's, on Thursday. "He was revolutionary in the music business."

Said Kiss' Paul Stanley: "The name Les Paul is iconic



AP
In this May 3, 1988 file photo, Paul McCartney, right, tries out a custom-made left handed "Les Paul Lite" guitar presented to him by designer, Les Paul, left, in New York.

and is known by aspiring and virtuoso guitar players worldwide. That guitar is the cornerstone of a lot of great music that has been made in the last 50 years."

A tinkerer and musician since childhood, he experimented with guitar amplification for years before coming up in 1941 with what he called "The Log," a 4-by-4 piece of wood strung with steel strings.

"I went into a nightclub and played it. Of course, everybody had me labeled as a nut." He later put the wooden wings onto the body to give it a tradition guitar shape.

The use of electric guitar gained popularity in the mid-to-late 1940s.

Leo Fender's Broadcaster was the first mass-produced solid body electric on the market in the late 1940s.

Gibson solicited Paul to create a prototype for a guitar, and began production on the

Les Paul guitar in 1952. Townshend of the Who, Steve Howe of Yes, jazz great Al DiMeola and Led Zeppelin's Page all made the Gibson Les Paul their trademark six-string.

The Les Paul series has become one of the most widely used guitars in the music industry. In 2005, Christie's auction house sold a 1955 Gibson Les Paul for \$45,600.

Paul was born Lester William Polfuss, in Waukesha, Wis., on June 9, 1915. He began his career as a musician, billing himself as Red Hot Red or Rhubarb Red. He toured with the popular Chicago band Rube Tronson and His Texas Cowboys and led the house band on WJJD radio in Chicago.

In the mid-1930s he joined Fred Waring's Pennsylvanians and soon moved to New York to form the Les Paul Trio, with Jim Atkins and bassist Ernie Newton.

In Loving Memory Rita Hocog Inos, Ed.D

Our Heavenly Father welcomed Rita to her eternal life on Monday, August 10, 2009 at the age of 55 years at the Commonwealth Health Center. Mass of intention and nightly rosary is being offered at 6:00 p.m. at the St. Jude Church in Saipan and at 7:00 p.m. at the San Francisco de Borja Church in Rota.

At the eternal gates of our Heavenly Father, Rita now joins her mother: Ana Songao Hocog and her parents-in-law Vicente Atalig Inos and Ana Songao Inos.

Rita's compassion and wonderful sense of humor are being lovingly celebrated by her Husband: Cristobal S. Inos, her children: Denise Lorraine Hocog Inos, and Ana Blossom Hocog Inos and granddaughter Elisabeth Inos Gardner.

Rita is survived by her brothers, sister and their spouses and children:

Senator Paterno Hocog & Elizabeth Mendiola (Anginette Sasakura Mendiola-Bamba & John Anthony Bamba, Joshua Alfred Mendiola-Bamba, John Anthony Mundo-Bamba, Jr., Jay Chris, Andre Mendiola Bamba, Carrie Lynn Ayuyu Hocog & Vito Mesngon Ulloa, Jr., Andrei Mendiola & Elinor Amon, Elenecca Dee Amon Mendiola, Paterno Jose Ayuyu Hocog, Patty Beth Mendiola Hocog, and Paterno Mendiola Hocog, Jr.)

Manuel Hocog

Pedro Hocog & Elizabeth Barcinas (Abel Barcinas Hocog, Flavian Barcinas Hocog, Lucille Barcinas Hocog, Peter Anthony Barcinas Hocog)

Angel Hocog

Elizabeth Hocog Apatang & Joseph Apatang (Jolynn Hocog Apatang)

Edward Hocog & Ruby Hocog, (Edward Manglona Hocog, Jr., Domingo Manglona Hocog, Angieanna Manglona Hocog, Esco Ann Dela Cruz Hocog, Kiana Dela Cruz Hocog)

She is additionally survived by her brothers/sisters-in-law:

Mayor Joseph S. & Lucy S. Inos & Children
Lt. Governor Eloy S. & Dolores A. Inos & Children
Esther I. & Jose Basa & Children
Ramon & Juanita I. Takai & Children
Rufin S. & Thelma B. Inos & Children
Ramon & Lucy I. Sablan & Children

Numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, and nephews will also miss her.

Viewing will be held on Saturday, August 15, 2009 from 7:30 a.m. and followed by Memorial Mass at 11:00 a.m. at the Mt. Carmel Cathedral.

Last respects for Rita will be held at the San Francisco de Borja Church in Rota on Tuesday, August 18, 2009 from 7:00 a.m. Mass of Christian burial will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m., burial will follow immediately at San Jose Cemetary in Songsong Village (Rota).

*Si Yu'us Ma'ase ginen as Cristobal S. Inos,
I famagu'ona yan I familia.*

In Loving Memory Of Charlene Ilo Mettao Neelawala

Born: June 16, 1983
was called to her eternal rest on
August 10, 2009 at the age of 26

Parents:

Father: Francisco Faisao Mettao - Maria DL. Cruz Mettao
Mother: †Digna Kaipat Ilo

Reared Parents:

Joaquin Elameto Norita & Leonicia Rangamar Norita

Children:

Dineicia, Jacob, Kuiipo, Neilucia, Jaiko & K.C. Greg

Sisters:

Tricia Mettao & Greg Teregeyo (Marydin, Ashley, Trinie & Princess)
Geraldin M. Rahman & Aatur Rahman (Justin, Rebecca & Natisa)
Francisca Mettao
Jenifer Rangamar & Cris Mers (J.B., Meheina & Clifton)
April Mettao (Cody & Aidie)
Clair DL. Cruz Mettao
Shayna DL. Cruz Mettao
Cristian DL. Cruz Mettao

Brothers:

Francisco I. Mettao
Ben I. Mettao & Norma Nekaifes (London)
Frank "Junie" DLC. Mettao

Reared Brothers / Sisters:

Carmen M. Elameto & Andrew Lizama, Jack R. Norita,
Phylli R. Norita, Joshua R. Norita & Prince R. Norita

Daily mass is being offered every evening at San Jose Church at 7:00 pm. On August 18, 2009 at 7:00 am her remains will be escorted from CHC to San Jose Church. Christian mass will be offered at 10:00 am followed by her burial mass at 11:00 am.

Thank you for your thoughts and prayers.
Children and Family

Michael Jackson's glittery glove up for auction

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The glittery glove that Michael Jackson wore when he unveiled his moonwalk on TV in 1983 is hitting the auction block.

This one isn't like his other glittery gloves, which were made for the right hand and adorned with hand-sewn crystals. This left-handed glove, which accompanied Jackson's fedora and dance moves on Motown's 25th-anniversary TV special, is a modified, store-bought glove covered with a mesh of rhinestones.

The glove, which Darren Julien of Julien's Auctions called "the Holy Grail of Michael Jackson memorabilia," will be featured alongside other one-of-a-kind items—such as an early Madonna demo tape and unreleased Jimi Hendrix lyrics—at the Nov. 21 "Music Icons" auction at the Hard Rock Cafe in

New York City's Times Square.

Walter "Clyde" Orange, a founding member of the Commodores, has been holding onto the glove since Jackson gave it to him in 1983.

Orange said he got to know Jackson when the Commodores toured with the Jackson 5 in the 1970s. Orange would always ask the young entertainer for an autograph, but Jackson refused, saying Orange was the more famous of the two. The autograph request became a private joke.

They met again in March 1983 when the Motown special was taped. Jackson sang with his brothers, then took the stage alone to wow the world with his moonwalk during his solo performance of "Billie Jean."

Orange found his friend backstage and again requested an autograph. Jackson gave



AP

This image released by Julien's Auctions shows Michael Jackson's glove from his 1983 performance of Billie Jean at the Motown 25 television special where he performed the Moonwalk for the first time.

him the glove instead.

After Jackson's June 25 death at age 50, Orange decided the glove was too significant to keep.

"There's a hundred other gloves out there, but this is the one you want. He blew up after that (performance) with 'Billie Jean,'" Orange, 62, said in an interview. "The world should see this. This is the first. That's the song that made him shoot through the roof as a superstar."

Orange said he hopes the glove will find a permanent home at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame or a similar institution. And he's happy that proceeds from the sale will benefit MusiCares, an organization that helps musicians struggling with substance abuse.

"Just for the world to see it, that means the world to me," Orange said.

Pitt laughs over New Orleans mayor T-shirt push

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—The idea of Brad Pitt running for New Orleans mayor has generated a lot of buzz around the city even though he isn't eligible. It also generated some laughs for the actor in a Thursday television interview.

Many residents have been sporting "Brad Pitt for Mayor" T-shirts since mid-June, when a Tulane University professor and two brothers who own a New Orleans T-shirt shop joined forces to launch a quasi-campaign to convince Pitt to run. The actor founded the Make It Right organization in 2007 to build houses for low-income residents who lost their homes during Hurricane Katrina.

"He's a family man, and you won't have to worry about him being corrupt," said Drew Cambre, 26, who works at a New Orleans pastry shop and has a "Brad Pitt for Mayor" sticker on his laptop computer. "Plus, he'll help the movie industry here in New Orleans and keep a light on the city."

Pitt said on NBC's "Today" that he's noticed the shirts but laughed off the idea of running.



AP

Executive producer Brad Pitt attends the world premiere of "The Time Traveler's Wife" at the Ziegfeld Theater in New York, Wednesday, Aug. 12, 2009.

"I don't have a chance."

He joked: "I'm running on the gay marriage, no religion, legalization and taxation of marijuana platform."

Pitt is right about his chances, at least as far as the next mayoral election. He and his partner, Angelina Jolie, bought a French Quarter mansion in 2007. To be eligible, mayoral candidates must be residents of New Orleans for at least five years before the date of the election. The mayoral primary is Feb. 6, 2010.



AP

Victoria Beckham arrives at a hotel in Denver, Colo., to be a guest judge on "American Idol."

Victoria Beckham adding more 'Spice' to 'Idol'

NEW YORK (AP)—Victoria Beckham seems to be getting used to filling a fourth judge chair on "American Idol," left vacant by Paula Abdul's departure.

The former Spice Girl—Posh—was in Boston Thursday to help judge callbacks for contestants who tried out but were invited back for another round, Fox publicist Alex Gillespie said. Beckham was a guest judge last Friday for auditions in Denver, and it was originally described as a one-time appearance.

This is the point of the show where judges give singers a golden ticket to advance to the Hollywood round.

Last week in Denver, Beckham told Fox News she was a huge fan of "American Idol" and nervous about being a judge. "My heart is about to jump out my throat," she said.

She also said she was looking forward to any criticisms Simon Cowell may have for her.

"I have a British sense of humor. I'm quite welcoming to it," Beckham said.

"American Idol" returns for its ninth season in January.

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Kate Gosselin says her marriage is definitely over

NEW YORK (AP)—Kate Gosselin says she and her estranged husband, Jon, definitely won't be getting back together. Gosselin said during an appearance on "Live With Regis and Kelly" that her marriage is over forever. Host Regis Philbin pressed Gosselin on what she'd do if Jon asked her to try again, but she declined to answer. Philbin said he had a sense the marriage could be saved. Replied Gosselin: "I can't say that I think you're right, at all." She announced her separation from Jon Gosselin in June on the couple's TLC network reality show, "Jon & Kate Plus 8." Both parents are continuing with the show, which documents the challenges of raising their twins and sextuplets.

Kourtney Kardashian expecting a child in December

NEW YORK (AP)—Kourtney Kardashian has a baby on the way. The 30-year-old reality TV star said in an appearance Thursday on NBC's "Today" show that she's due in December. Kardashian says the father is her

on-again boyfriend Scott Disick, who appeared on the E! series "Keeping Up With the Kardashians." Kardashian says she and Disick are "really happy" being together again. They broke up last year on the show. Kardashian appears with her family on "Keeping Up With the Kardashians." She and her sister Khloe co-star in the E! spinoff show, "Kourtney and Khloe Take Miami."

E-book of new Dan Brown novel coming Sept. 15

NEW YORK (AP)—E-book readers can relax: The electronic edition of Dan Brown's "The Lost Symbol" is coming out on the same day as the hardcover. Doubleday announced in April that Brown's first novel since "The Da Vinci Code" was coming out Sept. 15, but had hesitated to say when the e-book would be released, leading to speculation that the publisher was concerned that digital sales, a quickly rising market, would cut into purchases of the more expensive hardcover. But in a statement released Thursday, Doubleday spokeswoman Suzanne Herz said the e-book also would be available on Sept. 15 and cited

concerns not about sales, but about "security and logistical issues," since resolved. The book has an announced first printing of 5 million copies and is under embargo until its publication date.

Character actor John Quade dies at 71

LOS ANGELES (AP)—John Quade, who played the heavy in several Clint Eastwood movies and was the sheriff in the TV miniseries "Roots," has died. He was 71. His wife Gwen says Quade died in his sleep of natural causes Sunday at his home in the Southern California desert town of Rosamond. Quade had dozens of TV and movie roles in a career that spanned more than a quarter-century. His movies included "Papillon" and "High Plains Drifter." However, he is perhaps best remembered as the motorcycle gang leader in the Eastwood movie "Every Which Way But Loose" and its sequel, "Any Which Way You Can." He also played Sheriff Biggs in episodes of "Roots." The Kansas-born Quade leaves six children and 10 grandchildren.

Emptiness of man's apartment gives woman unsettled feeling

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I am a 20-year-old student who has lived in an apartment with my current roommate, "Karen," for 18 months. We get along well.

For the past nine months, Karen has been dating a man who has begun spending almost every night in our apartment. So far, I have tolerated the situation because they're not disruptive.

I recently visited Karen's boyfriend's apartment for the first time. Abby, no wonder he's here every night. I thought I was touring a vacant apartment. His kitchen has absolutely nothing in it, and the living room is mostly unfurnished and totally unlit. In addition, he has no phone or Internet service.

Since then, I haven't been able to get it off my mind. I don't want to ruin what is otherwise a good situation, but how do I put my mind at ease? I can't put my finger on what's bothering me, but it doesn't "feel" right.

STEAMED IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

DEAR STEAMED: You have described a young bachelor who doesn't cook, who probably has eaten most of his meals "out," and who has not developed a strong nesting instinct, either. (He could also not have much money.) But keep your eyes and ears open, and if anything else about your roommate's boyfriend bothers you, mention it to her.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: In the past you have printed letters from readers describing acts of kindness for others. Not long ago, my husband (who is in the military) and I went out to dinner after our first obstetric appointment. We had a lovely time; our server was also a pregnant Army wife and we chatted about due dates, deployments, our husbands' jobs, etc.

At the end of the meal no check was delivered to our table. Our server explained that the couple behind us had paid for it as a way to say thank you for my husband's service and congratulations on the baby. We were very touched. I wish they hadn't left before we did so we could have thanked them.

My husband and I stopped at the market before going home. A man approached us and asked if we had any spare change because his kids were hungry and payday was a few days off. Because someone had done something nice for us that night, I decided to pay it forward and help him out—so I gave him all the money I had in my purse.

Someone touched our lives in a positive way, and I'm so glad we could help someone in return. I hope this letter inspires someone else to do the same.

ARMY WIFE AT FORT BLISS, TEXAS

DEAR ARMY WIFE: So do I. And to that I'd like to add that helping others does not necessarily have to involve giving money. It can be as simple as approaching members of the military and thanking them for their service or volunteering time to work in a shelter or a food program to help the destitute.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I was in a major department store, carrying a designer handbag, when a woman I didn't know approached me and asked if my bag was real or a knockoff. I was at a loss for words. The rudeness of that woman floored me.

I was always taught to be polite and not ask nosy questions. How would you have handled it?

OFFENDED IN ARKANSAS

DEAR OFFENDED: If the handbag was genuine, I would have told the woman it was. And if it wasn't, I would have told her where to find one like it.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

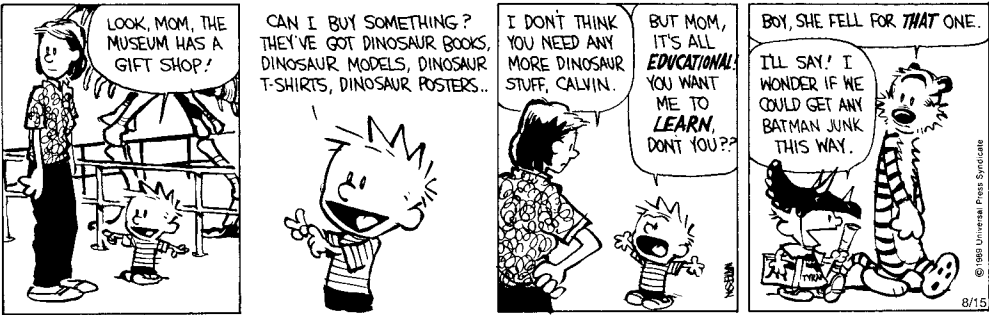
For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson Garfield®

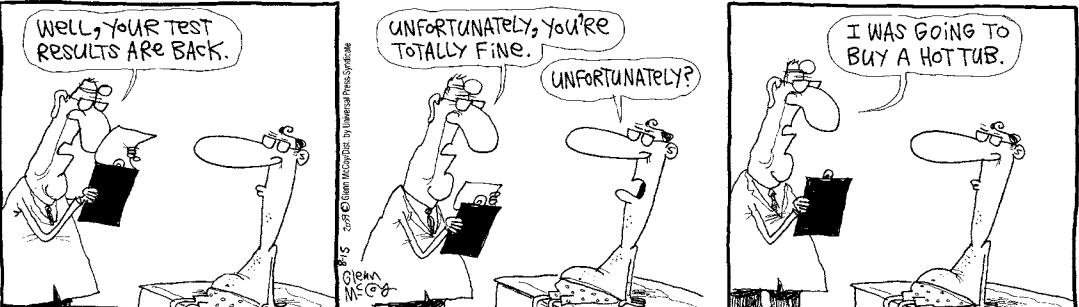
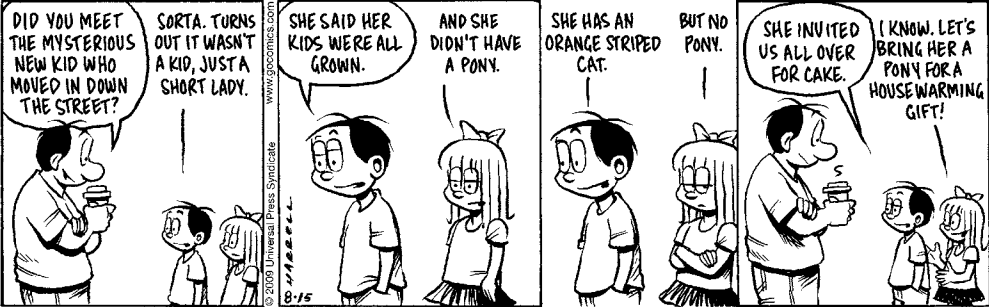
By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



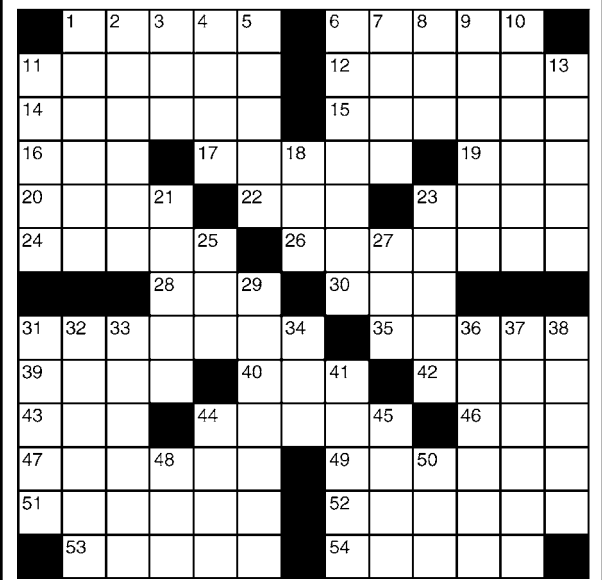
CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 39 Draftable 54 Elite 10 Drug
1 Coasters 40 Youngster Navy dealers'
6 "Rubber 42 Dangling group foes
Capital" locale
11 Evening 43 "Kidding!" DOWN
get-together 44 Ballad 1 Association
12 Pageant 45 Med. conclusion
winners' 46 Med. football
bling watchdog 2 Sang lightly
14 Wood-shop org. 3 Historic 21 Scoundrel
device 47 Concern during
15 Unisex 49 Lee 4 Show-room
garment 51 Men sample 25 Computer
16 Performance 52 Hard to acronym
TV oldie 27 Burst
17 Hall's 53 Picture 31 Piquant
singing 40 puzzle 32 He has a
partner 41 out 33 Chant
19 Goose, in 54 more 34 Car-pool-
Guada-lajara 42 bird 36 Open up,
20 Equal 43 as a flag
22 Felon's 44 Fragrant
flight 45 trees
23 Stop 46 Impetuous
up 47 Interment
24 Great 48 sites
warmth 49 Beige
26 Weigh 50 Gilligan's
heavily 41 home
upon 42 Plagiarize
28 — long 51 Sine-non
way 43 link
30 As well
31 Win
35 Sac

Solution time: 27 mins.

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G	A	L	A	R	D	E	N	T	D	O
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P	E	Y	O	T	E	P	R	O	U	S
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U	S	U	R	P	E	D	A	T	E	U
S	E	N	A	B	E	C	A	S	T	E
E	N	S	D	E	R	E	S	S	E	N

Yesterday's answer 8-15



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Ben Affleck, 37; Debra Messing, 41; Jimmy Webb, 63; Linda Ellerbee, 65

Happy Birthday: Make some important decisions that can lead to a change of location or position. You don't have to be aggressive in order to get things done. Getting involved in a cause you believe in will bring you unexpected rewards. Put your knowledge and experience to work for you and you will prosper. Your numbers are 3, 9, 13, 20, 33, 36, 44

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Socialize, network and share your ideas and, before you know it, you will be discussing plans, partnerships and future proposals. This is a great time to take an interest in something that you've always wanted to try. ★★★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Put in extra time on something you feel is worthwhile and you will get plenty in return. Lending a helping hand will show your dedication to a cause and help to align you with people who share your concerns. ★★★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Your heart will rule your head, causing some of your good friends to be concerned. Before you make a hasty decision, consider what the results might bring. You may be thinking in the moment when you should be thinking of the future. ★★★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Consider trying something new or taking up a hobby that might lead to a second job or a part time business. A change will do you good

and lead to something that will help to stabilize your life personally and financially. ★★★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You will be on a mission. Don't stop at anything once you set your course. You can make a difference and, from that, much can be gained. Helping others will come at a cost but the people you meet and the possibilities that develop will be worth your while. ★★★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Stay cool about matters that develop, even if they do make you upset. The only way to solve problems is to face them responsibly and with dignity. That way you win, no matter what happens. ★★★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Do something that will ease your stress. Go to a spa or take a yoga class or join a group that interests you creatively. A trip or getting involved in something new will lead to interesting ideas and people. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You may have to take drastic measures in order to settle things down at home. Problems in your domestic environment will be due to a lack of communication. Focus on the one you love and how you can make things better. ★★★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Take another look at how you have treated someone who has been there for you in the past. Emotional matters will escalate if you don't address issues quickly and with reason. ★★★★★

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You have to

EUGENIA LAST THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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be in charge if you want to save yourself some cash. Someone is likely to pressure you to spend on something you aren't sure you need. An emotional argument must be avoided if you want to stay on top of matters regarding a possible purchase. ★★★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Get involved in something that will keep you active and out of trouble. Expect conflict over the way you deal with a personal situation. You may think that taking a risk is fun but it will irk someone who cares about you. ★★★★★

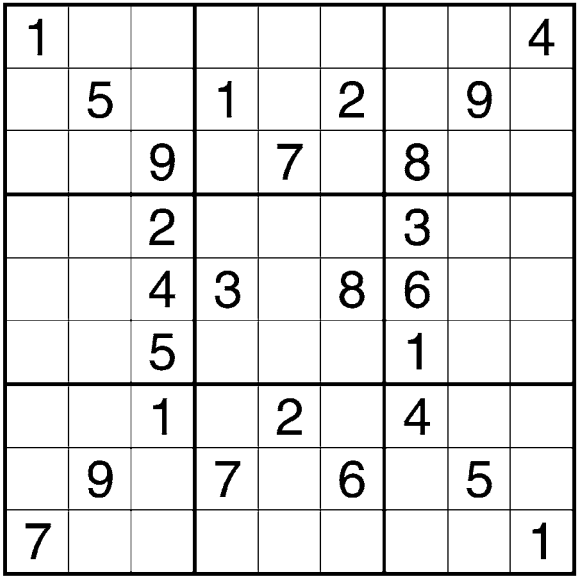
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You can expect to be burdened with a family problem. Rely on someone you love to help see you through a tough decision. Don't lose sight of what you need to do because someone entices you to do something else. ★★★★★

Birthday Baby: You are curious, competitive and aggressive. You strive for peace, fair play and honesty and expect the same in return.

Eugenia's Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential consultations

SUDOKU

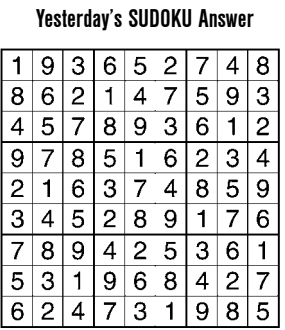
Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 8/15

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

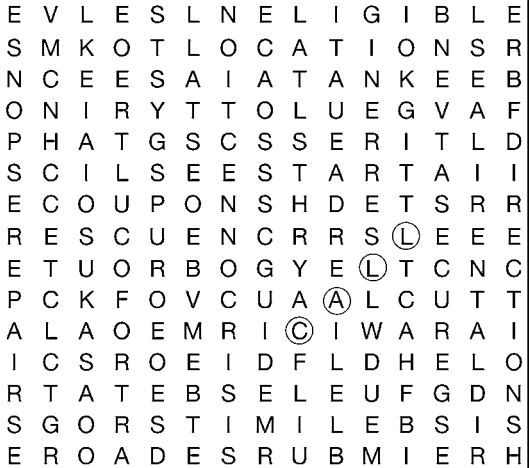


Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 8/15

WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE Solution: 8 letters



Alert, Battery, Bonus, Book, Boost, Call, Card, Care, Cars, Charges, City, Club, Connection, Coupons, Coverage, Crisis, Dealer, Diagnostics, Directions, Driver, Eligible, Emergency, Fees, Filter, Flats, Fuel, Guide, Highway, Keys, Limits, Location, Lost, Motor, Oils, Plan, Reimburse, Rental, Repairs, Rescue, Response, Road, Route, Secure, Stall, Start, State, Tank

Yesterday's Answer: Contours

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235-NEWS

No A-Rod, no problem for Yankees



SEATTLE (AP)—The Yankees keep rolling on, putting this one

away before they even had a chance to miss A-Rod or Jorge Posada.

Derek Jeter homered before leaving early to rest, Hideki Matsui had his fourth career two-home run game and a season-high five RBIs and starter CC Sabathia struck out a season-high 10 as New York began its longest road trip of the year with an 11-1 easy win over the Seattle Mariners on Thursday night.

The Yankees had a 5-0 lead one out into the third inning without Alex Rodriguez, who may also miss Friday with a bruised elbow, and without Posada, their bruised catcher who said he could have played.

They didn't need either one.

Sabathia (13-7) mixed a 96 mph fastball with sinkers and dancing off-speed pitches that had the AL's lowest-scoring team flailing. He allowed just three hits and a solo home run in eight innings. It was his fifth win in six decisions.

And recently acquired Jerry Hairston Jr. again proved to be an invaluable fill-in with a double, single and two RBIs subbing for Rodriguez at third base.

The Yankees won for the 10th time in 11 games to increase their lead in the AL East over the Red Sox to a season high-tying 6 1/2 games.

Their 11-day, 10-game trip has three more in Seattle and three games in Oakland before finishing with three at Boston.

Sabathia's only blemish was a home run in the fifth by Josh Wilson, selected Thursday from Triple-A Tacoma because shortstop Jack Wilson is out a few days with a pulled hamstring.

The Mariners lost for the third time in seven games. They took their most lopsided defeat since an 11-0 pounding at Minnesota way back on May 8, yet stayed 5 1/2 games behind Boston in the wild-card standings.

Ian Snell was left on the mound to absorb most of the beating. Seattle had used 11 relievers for 13 2-3 innings over the previous three days entering Thursday, including four relievers over the final seven innings of a 1-0, 14-inning win against Chicago the previous night.

Snell (0-1), making his third start since Seattle acquired him from Pittsburgh on July 29, allowed nine hits and eight runs in six-plus innings. Five days earlier, Snell walked six Tampa



New York Yankees' Derek Jeter, right, is congratulated by third base coach Rob Thomson after Jeter's home run against the Seattle Mariners in the third inning Thursday, Aug. 13, 2009, during a baseball game in Seattle.

Bay Rays while lasting just 1 1-3 innings in his home Seattle debut.

Tigers 2, Red Sox 0

At Boston, Justin Verlander allowed four hits in eight innings, Ryan Raburn homered and the Detroit Tigers beat the Boston Red Sox 2-0 on Thursday to avoid a four-game sweep.

Verlander (13-6) struck out eight and walked one, retiring 16 of the last 19 batters he faced. Fernando Rodney pitched the ninth for his 24th save.

Clay Buchholz (1-3) allowed five hits in seven innings, walking three and striking out three while giving up Raburn's homer to go with an unearned run in the fourth. Victor Martinez had two hits for Boston, and he also stole a base for the second time in his career and the first time since 2003.

Royals 5, Twins 4

At Minneapolis, Gil Meche gave up four runs in five innings in his return from the disabled list, and the Royals won their first three-game series since the end of June.

After allowing an RBI double to Mauer in the first, Meche (5-9) breezed through the next three innings. He had two outs in the fifth when he walked Denard Span and gave up a single to Cabrera. Mauer followed with his 21st homer of the season to pull Minnesota to 5-4.

Willie Bloomquist had two RBIs, Alex Gordon hit his third homer and Joakim Soria pitched two innings for

his 19th save. The Royals had not beaten an AL team in a series of at least three games since they took two of three in the Metrodome on May 1-3.

Carl Pavano (10-9) gave up five runs in seven innings for the Twins.

Rangers 4, Indians 1

At Cleveland, Scott Feldman pitched six sharp innings and Josh Hamilton had four hits, including a go-ahead two-run double for the Rangers.

Feldman (12-4) worked out of trouble several times after allowing a first-inning run in winning his third straight start. The right-hander allowed seven hits and struck out six to improve to 8-1 with a 3.33 ERA in 10 road starts this season.

Hamilton's double off Jeremy Sowers (4-8) gave the Rangers a 2-1 lead. He also had an infield hit in the first, a double in the sixth and another single leading off the eighth.

Frank Francisco pitched the ninth for his 15th save and his first since July 10.

Reds 7, Nationals 0

At Cincinnati, Jonny Gomes homered in his first three at-bats to back Bronson Arroyo's two-hitter and Cincinnati beat Washington 7-0 on Thursday night.

Gomes hit two-run homers in the second and fourth innings and added a solo shot in the sixth to help the Reds take a 7-0 lead. He struck out in the eighth inning.

It is the second time in Gomes' career

he hit three homers, the first on July 30, 2005, against Kansas City. He is the sixth player to hit three homers in a game this season. Pittsburgh's Andrew McCutchen was the last on Aug. 1.

Gomes, who has 14 homers, became the 24th player in franchise history to hit three home runs in a game.

Arroyo (11-11) had been 0-3 in his previous four starts and hadn't won since beating Milwaukee 4-0 on July 17. He allowed just one runner as far as second base. He walked one, hit a batter and struck out three.

Phillies 6, Cubs 1

At Chicago, Cliff Lee won his third straight start since joining Philadelphia, and the NL East leaders beat Chicago for its first sweep at Wrigley Field in 25 years.

Shane Victorino had two hits and scored twice. The All-Star center fielder had no problems with the crowd, a day after he was doused with beer while catching a fly ball, prompting Victorino to file a police report. The Cubs management apologized to him.

Lee (3-0) allowed one run and six hits over eight innings. He struck out eight and walked three to win his sixth straight start overall. He also helped himself with a double.

Ryan Howard hit his 27th homer, a three-run shot off Ryan Dempster (6-6). Two batters later, Pedro Feliz added his ninth of the season, a solo drive for a 4-0 lead.

Brewers 12, Padres 9

At Milwaukee, Prince Fielder and backup catcher Mike Rivera each hit two home runs, and the struggling Brewers built a big lead before hanging on to beat the Padres.

Fielder hit a 465-foot shot off the Miller Park scoreboard and Ryan Braun also homered as the Brewers connected a season-high five times. Manny Parra won his fifth straight decision despite allowing 13 hits in 5 2-3 innings.

Parra (8-8) took a nine-run lead into the fifth inning, but allowed three runs on five straight singles and a sacrifice fly. San Diego rallied for three more runs off reliever David Weathers and a gaffe by second baseman Felipe Lopez in the eighth that made it 12-9.

The Brewers rattled Padres starter Cesar Carrillo (0-1), who allowed every man he put on to score in his short major league debut.

Rockies 10, Pirates 1

At Denver, Jason Marquis allowed three hits over seven innings, Troy Tulowitzki and Clint Barmes homered and the Rockies finished off a winning series.

Dexter Fowler had four hits—three of them doubles—and scored three runs, and Barmes finished with three hits and three RBIs for Colorado.

Marquis (13-8) became the third pitcher in the National League to reach 13 wins. He'd been 0-2 in his previous three starts, but gave up one run and struck out six.

Pittsburgh starter Pat Maholm (6-7) allowed seven runs on 11 hits in 6 1-3 innings.

Marlins 9, Astros 2

At Miami, Jorge Cantu and Ronny Paulino homered for Florida, which has won six of its last seven.

Sean West (4-4) allowed one run and five hits in six innings for the Marlins, who remained 4 1/2 games behind first-place Philadelphia in the NL East.

Hanley Ramirez the NL batting leader, had two singles and two RBIs for Florida, which has at least 10 hits in a club-record 10 straight games.

Mike Hampton (notes) (7-10) gave up three runs and six hits. He left after five innings with a left shoulder strain.

Ramirez hit a two-run single for his second hit of the game, and Wes Helms had an RBI double to highlight a six-run sixth that gave the Marlins a 9-1 lead.

Miami acquires Richardson for Blount



MIAMI (AP)—Quentin Richardson and Dwyane Wade are regular workout partners during the off-season. They're about to get a chance to play together all year long.

Richardson's wild summer tour of the NBA continued Thursday night, when he was traded by the Minnesota Timberwolves to the Miami Heat for center Mark Blount.

Richardson spent the last four seasons with the New York Knicks and now has been traded four times in less than two months: to Memphis on draft night, then to the Los Ange-

les Clippers, then to Minnesota and now to Miami.

"We are very excited to add Quentin Richardson," Heat president Pat Riley said. "Over the course of his career, he has proven to be a fierce competitor, a great locker room presence and a very prolific 3-point shooter who may be one of the strongest perimeter players in the NBA. We feel that he will be able to match-up well against the top scorers in the league."

Richardson is due to earn about \$9 million this season. Blount was to make around \$7.9 million.

"Who would of ever thought we would play 2gether. Let's get it," Wade

wrote on his Twitter feed, welcoming Richardson to the Heat family.

Getting Richardson could help the Heat in a number of ways.

Miami had four centers on the roster, and Blount was easily the most disposable of that group. Wade, the reigning NBA scoring champion, hasn't been shy about clamoring for roster upgrades in recent months - and he almost certainly wouldn't have any objections about the acquisition of one of his good friends. And Richardson figures to give the Heat extra depth at small forward, meaning the plan to have Michael Beasley play more minutes at that spot in 2009 instead of

power forward now may be closer to being on hold.

Blount spent 1 1/2 seasons in Minnesota before coming to the Heat, starting 81 games for the Timberwolves in the 2006-07 season and averaging 12.3 points. A change of scenery could do him some good; Blount only played in 20 games for Miami last season, missing much of the year tending to personal and family matters following the death of a close relative in Haiti.

Riley said he thanked Blount for his contributions.

"He provided a solid veteran presence to our team the past two years," Riley said.

Minnesota now has only one true shooting guard on the roster—rookie Wayne Ellington.

Given the Wolves' current youth movement and the fact that they already have Al Jefferson and Ryan Hollins at the center position, it seems feasible that Blount may be moved again before the team opens training camp.

Timberwolves president David Kahn has spent much of his first summer on the job making a series of calculated trades, not so much for the value they bring on the court, but for the financial flexibility it brings to the team.

Like Richardson, Blount also is in the final year of his deal. Kahn could to move him elsewhere for a cheaper player, or combination of players, that will save the Timberwolves some money this season and keep them in a position to be a major buyer on the 2010 free-agent market.



PHILADELPHIA (AP)—By halftime, the line was buzzing: Michael Vick was an Eagle.

Suddenly, no one seemed to care much about the pre-season game against the New England Patriots on Thursday night. All that mattered to most fans was that the disgraced quarterback had joined their team.

Even though five-time Pro Bowl quarterback Donovan McNabb is the man on the Philadelphia Eagles, the team gave Vick a one-year deal with an option for a second year.

"We don't need another quarterback, especially him," longtime fan Donald Crispin said.

The 29-year-old Vick, once the NFL's highest-paid player, has been out of action since 2006. The former Atlanta Falcons star was convicted in August 2007 of conspiracy and running a dogfighting ring, and served 18 of a 23-month sentence in federal prison. He also was suspended indefinitely by the NFL.

"I'm a believer that as long as people go through the right process, they deserve a second chance," Eagles coach Andy Reid said. "He's got great people on his side; there isn't a finer person than Tony Dungy. He's proven he's on the right track."

Commissioner Roger Goodell conditionally lifted Vick's suspension on July 27, allowing him to sign with a team, practice and play in the last two preseason games. Once the season begins, Vick can participate in all team activities except games, and Goodell said he would consider Vick for full reinstatement by Week 6 (Oct. 18-19)

Vick signs deal with Eagles



In this July 31, 2009, file photo Michael Vick, left, and C.J. Reamon enter U.S. District Court in Newport News, Va. Vick is back in the NFL, landing a job with the Philadelphia Eagles.

at the latest.

The Eagles reached the NFC championship game last season under McNabb, but are still looking for their elusive first Super Bowl win.

McNabb has led the Eagles to five NFC title games and one Super Bowl

appearance in the last eight years, and was rewarded with a \$5.3 million raise in the offseason. The Eagles tore up his old contract with two years remaining, and gave him a new deal worth \$24.5 million over the next two seasons.

Philadelphia is a surprise landing point for Vick. It was among 26 clubs that said there was no interest in him, but that may have changed when backup Kevin Kolb strained a knee ligament earlier this week. Kolb's injury isn't serious and he's expected to return

next week. The Eagles also have veteran A.J. Feeley.

Reid made sure he spoke with McNabb before signing Vick.

"I pretty much lobbied to get him here," McNabb said. "I believe in second chances and what better place to get a second chance than here with this group of guys. ... He's no threat to me, not for Kolb. We had the opportunity to add another weapon to our offense."

Vick could be used in a variation of the Wildcat offense that the Miami Dolphins made popular last season. He's also familiar with the West Coast offense, though Atlanta ran a different version than the one Philadelphia uses.

"He's an unbelievable athlete, both running the ball and throwing it," Reid said. "I'll think of something for him."

When news of Vick's signing circulated in the press box during the first half of the Eagles' preseason opener against the Patriots, even the team's public relations staff seemed surprised.

The crowd quickly caught on at Lincoln Financial Field. Fans standing on the concourse were in disbelief. One guy wondered how quickly he'd be able to buy a Vick jersey. Another asked if this was a joke.

"It doesn't make any sense," said Michelle Harlan, a mother attending her first NFL game with a young son.

In a "60 Minutes" interview set to air Sunday, Vick accepted blame for not stopping the illegal dogfighting operation he bankrolled.

Vick said he feels "some tremendous hurt behind what happened."

He said he should have taken "the initiative to stop it all ... I didn't."

Tiger without a blemish in leading PGA



CHASKA, Minn. (AP)—Tiger Woods smiled and gave a thumbs-up sign, although it wasn't for anything he did at the PGA Championship.

Standing on the green of the 606-yard 11th hole at Hazeltine, he was shocked to see that a player in the group behind him - Alvaro Quiros - had hit his second shot into the wind and onto the green.

"That's just stupid long, isn't it?" Woods said. "I used to be able to move the ball—not anymore. I just plod my around, shoot 67."

That formula worked to near perfection Thursday, when Woods opened with a 5-under 67 to build a one-shot lead over defending champion Pádraig Harrington. It was an ideal start in his final chance to win a major this year.

"It was a very positive start," Woods said. "When I'm playing well, I usually don't make that many mistakes."

Woods didn't do anything sensational. He picked his targets and usually hit them. Only two of his birdie putts were inside 12 feet, on par 5s that he was able to reach in two. He made no bogeys, only the third time he has done that in the first round of a major.

Mostly, he had no complaints.

Not since Carnoustie two years ago has Woods managed to break 70 in the opening round of a major. Not since St. Andrews four years ago has he had the lead to himself after the first round.

More telling was a scorecard without a blemish.

It was the only the third time that Woods has opened a major with a bogey-free round - the other two were at the U.S. Open and British Open in 2000, which he won by a combined 23 shots.

Harrington, who lost a three-shot lead to Woods last week at Firestone, stayed with him through the steamy, breezy morning until a bunker shot on the par-5 seventh was too strong and he had to settle for par.

"He doesn't look like he couldn't break 70 out there today," Harrington said. "Years ago, he had probably more flair in his game. His game is very solid now. Not that he hit all the shots, but I think he's put a little bit of conservatism on his game. It's nice, and he's very much in control of it."

The intensity from the final round at Firestone was missing. Both are experienced enough to know that Thursday at a major is all about position, and they chatted frequently during their five hours at Hazeltine.

Even so, Harrington took notice.

"There's a factor that Tiger is 5-under par and looks like he's playing well, and looks like he could move away," Harrington said. "And key will be, obviously is he's moving away, to make sure I'm moving with him. It was tough on Sunday with me getting a three-shot start. I don't want to give him a three-shot start."

Phil Mickelson struggled off the tee and with his short putts in his round of 74.

In the traditional group of major champions this year, Lucas Glover was the only one to break par with a 71. Masters champion Angel Cabrera had a 76, while British Open winner Stewart Cink had two double bogeys in his round of 73.

Woods and Harrington, the winners of the last three PGAs, played in the morning when the greens were relatively smooth and the wind had only just begun to swirl through these tree-lined fairways.

Equally impressive was a pair of

other past PGA champions—Vijay Singh and David Toms—who were at 69 while playing in the afternoon, and should get the best conditions in the second round. Singh hit his best shot around the trees and into the sun, not seeing that it spun back an inch or two from the hole at No. 16.

Others who had a 69 from the morning batch were Quiros and Robert Allenby.

Woods missed only two fairways—he hit driver on six holes—and three greens. He only twice came close to making bogey, on the 18th and first holes, and saved par with 6-foot putts.

He looked nothing like the guy who was slamming clubs and looking for a lost ball at Turnberry last month in the British Open, when he missed the cut in a major for only the second time in his career. Woods had a chance to expand his lead with birdie putts of 12 and 15 feet on the last two holes that burned the lip.

Woods atop the leaderboard can be daunting going into Sunday, not so much after one round.

His record with at least a share of the lead through 18 holes is only 13-11 on the PGA Tour, including 4-2 in the majors. Even so, he has won the last four majors from this positions.

That was only a bonus.

"Something I've always believe in is just keep yourself around," Woods said. "You don't have to be eight ahead after the first round. Just got to keep plodding along. Major championship are set up so they're difficult. They beat you into making mistakes. And the whole idea is not to make many mistakes."

A few tees were moved forward to account for the wind. Even so, Hazeltine played 7,660 yards from the tee to the hole, and Woods made some



Tiger Woods chips to the 18th green during the first round of the 91st PGA Championship at the Hazeltine National Golf Club in Chaska, Minn., Thursday, Aug. 13, 2009.

of his best birdies with long clubs. He opened his scoring with a 3-iron to 20 feet at No. 12, and picked up three birdies on the par 5s, including a 3-wood to a back bunker of the 651-yard 15th, with a breeze at his back.

He took the outright lead on the par-5 seventh with a 349-yard tee shot, followed by a 6-iron to 30 feet.

"He's human," Allenby said. "And the golf course is in front of all of us. And obviously, he's the best in the world, so we expect him to win, because he's the best. He should. But you

know what? It's three more days to go. And a lot can happen."

Woods knows better than most that the tournament is far from over. He was atop the leaderboard at consecutive majors in 1998 after the opening round and watched someone else hoist the trophy.

Still, it was a powerful start.

"There's a lot of guys out here that can hang with him when they're playing their best," Rory McIlroy said after a 71. "But the thing is, Tiger plays his best most of the time. And even when he doesn't play his best, he usually wins."

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES				
MLB STANDINGS				
AMERICAN LEAGUE				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	72	43	.626	—
Boston	65	49	.570	6 1/2
Tampa Bay	61	53	.535	10 1/2
Toronto	54	59	.478	17
Baltimore	47	67	.412	24 1/2
Central Division				
Detroit	60	54	.522	—
Chicago	58	57	.504	2 1/2
Minnesota	55	59	.482	5
Cleveland	49	65	.430	11
Kansas City	45	69	.395	15
West Division				
Los Angeles	68	44	.607	—
Texas	64	49	.566	4 1/2
Seattle	60	55	.522	9 1/2
Oakland	51	63	.447	18
NATIONAL LEAGUE				
East Division				
Philadelphia	64	48	.571	—
Florida	61	54	.530	4 1/2
Atlanta	60	54	.526	5
New York	53	61	.465	12
Washington	40	75	.351	25 1/2
Central Division				
St. Louis	64	52	.552	—
Chicago	58	55	.513	4 1/2
Milwaukee	56	58	.491	7
Houston	56	59	.487	7 1/2
Cincinnati	50	64	.439	13
Pittsburgh	46	68	.404	17
West Division				
Los Angeles	69	46	.600	—
Colorado	64	51	.557	5
San Francisco	62	52	.544	6 1/2
Arizona	52	63	.452	17
San Diego	49	67	.422	20 1/2
Yesterday's Games				
NY Yankees 11, Seattle 1				
Detroit 2, Boston 0				
Kansas City 5, Minnesota 4				
Texas 4, Cleveland 1				
Cincinnati 5, Washington 0				
Philadelphia 6, Chi Cubs 1				
Milwaukee 12, San Diego 9				
Colorado 10, Pittsburgh 1				
Florida 9, Houston 2				
US PGA CHAMPIONSHIP SCORES				
CHASKA, Minnesota (AP) — Scores Thursday from the US PGA Championship, a \$7.5 million major at 7,674-yard, par-72 (36-36) Hazeltine National Golf Club.				
FIRST ROUND				
Tiger Woods	33-34	67		
Padraig Harrington	34-34	68		
Robert Allenby	33-36	69		
Mathew Goggin	34-35	69		
Hunter Mahan	34-35	69		
Alvaro Quiros	36-33	69		
Vijay Singh	34-35	69		
David Toms	34-35	69		
Paul Goydos	34-36	70		
Thongchai Jaidee	38-32	70		
Graeme McDowell	35-35	70		
Lee Westwood	34-36	70		
Michael Bradley	32-38	70		
Gonzalo Fernandez-Castano	35-35	70		
Soren Kjeldsen	36-34	70		
Ben Crane	36-34	70		
Hiroyuki Fujita	37-34	71		
Bo Van Pelt	36-35	71		
Rory McIlroy	37-34	71		
Sergio Garcia	36-35	71		
Rich Beem	37-34	71		
Anders Hansen	34-37	71		
Geoff Ogilvy	36-35	71		
Brendan Jones	34-37	71		
Lucas Glover	36-35	71		
Luke Donald	37-34	71		
D.J. Trahan	34-38	72		
Keith Dicciani	37-35	72		
Charlie Wi	37-35	72		
Carl Pettersson	36-36	72		
Scott Hebert	35-37	72		
Nathan Green	35-37	72		
Dustin Johnson	33-39	72		
Tom Lehman	37-35	72		
Michael Miles	35-37	72		
Soren Hansen	33-39	72		
Louis Oosthuizen	36-36	72		
John Merrick	34-38	72		
Bob Tway	35-37	72		
Ian Poulter	36-36	72		
Thomas Levett	37-35	72		
J.J. Henry	35-37	72		
Jeff Overton	35-37	72		
Ross Fisher	36-37	73		

By The Associated Press

ITF

From Page 28

boys and girls’ singles and the eight remaining slots (wild card berths) will be given to selected players in the POJC.

The highest-ranked player in the draw is New Zealand’s Ben McLachlan at No. 86. Heo is ranked No. 1018 and is the lone player outside Australia and New

CNMI

From Page 28

Also heading to the World Series are CNMI District Administrator James Ada and Saipan Little League Baseball president Mike Borja.

Ada, in an interview with *Saipan Tribune* last Thursday, said he is confident the CNMI bets will have a good chance of surpassing the performance of the previous five teams that represented the Commonwealth to the World Series.

The CNMI made World Series trips from

IAAF

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broadcasting purposes. Major meets now will televise the finals during the evening and a schedule can be followed where there are no large gaps of time with no or little action or events that determine winners,” Barnes added.

There was an exemption to the false start rule, as IAAF decided that in combined events only one false start per race shall be allowed without disqualification of the athlete(s) responsible for the false start. Any athlete(s) making further false starts in the race shall be disqualified from the race.

Ninety-seven voted in favor of disqualifying an athlete for a false start,

BAYANI

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Boholanos now join Bayani-Shirley’s, Northern Marianas Bartenders Association, and Cabalen in the masters semis. In the open division, Bayani is a now in the company of MDX-Chow Queen, NMBA, and defending champion Samahang Ilo-kano at Pangesinense.

Facing a must-win situation, Bayani and VisMinda slugged it out from start to finish with the former showing more focus and having a bit of luck in the end game to escape with a win.

VisMinda lost concentration midway in the fourth quarter, as it started complaining against the referees’ calls. Coach Boy Garcia was mostly up on his seat, questioning calls, while players on the bench and on the court were also mumbling words against the referees. Bayani capitalized on a disorganized VisMinda and took an 87-77 lead with three minutes left in the match before Jawn Joyner and Errol Peredo anchored a run to bring their team back into the game.

VisMinda had a chance to steal the win several times in the regulation, but muffed its free throws, sending the game in overtime.

With Bayani ahead by a deuce, 90-92, Bernard Montano only had a split to move VisMinda within one. Montano made another trip to the foul line, after Darwin Barbo bumped and fouled him in an inbound play. However, Montano missed both charities, keeping Bayani in the lead, 92-91.

With 28 seconds left in regulation, Bayani and VisMinda traded turnovers

Zealand to make the acceptance list.

Completing the 24-man acceptance list were Australia’s Jason Kubler (No. 164), Luke Saville (167). Ben Wagland (209), Joey Swaysland (238), William Kwok (309), Andrew Whittington (335), Andrew McLeod (411), Jack Schipanski (773), Nathan Lemke (974), Mark Richards (1,225), Chris O’Connell (1,392), Lorenzo Alforque (1,655), and Jay Andrijic (1,760);

2001 to 2005, but no team won by more than one game in Taylor, Michigan.

“The keys here are focus and adjustment. They have to be focus on their game no matter how good their opponents are. They have to follow the game plan. Secondly, they have to adjust to the much smaller field and its Bermuda grass early,” Ada said.

The CNMI youth sluggers trained at the much bigger Francisco “Tan Ko’ Palacios Ballfield, which in the past weeks was covered with mud due to heavy rains.

The CNMI is in the International Pool, along with teams from Puerto Rico, Italy, Aruba, and British Columbia, Canada.

while 55 were against it.

Of IAAF’s 213 National Membership Federations, 198 attended the Congress and a total of 371 delegates were present at the meeting presided over by IAAF President Lamine Diack.

Barnes added doping was also discussed at the Congress, but no major actions were made on this issue.

“Doping or athletes who cheat by using performance enhancing drugs was discussed in length, but Congress decided not to take action on any rule changes for illegal drugs and doping,” Barnes said.

Others actions taken at the Congress were the creation of the World Cross Country Championships for every two years, technical rule change proposals, having a minimum of six women in the IAAF Council, and the election of

with Ronald Delos Reyes committing the last one, losing the ball near midcourt. There was a battle for the loose ball and a held-ball was called, and VisMinda got the leather, as the possession arrow pointed on its side.

Nate Mateo inbounded the ball from the right sideline and threw it to Errol Peredo, who with five seconds left in the game, drove to the basket and drew a foul from Glen Aquino.

Peredo only made one free throw, missing his first attempt and with one second left, Bayani’s Ryan Sanciango failed to pull up for a decent shot, forcing the two teams to play for five more minutes.

Bayani had its share of disappointments in the game’s officiating and at one point coach Amor Zapata approached the officials table, halting the start of the overtime period. However, Bayani players remained focus and let out their frustrations through a better game in the extension.

A quick 7-0 run was all Bayani needed in overtime to regain control of the match and eke out a three-point win. Delos Reyes made an undergoal stab, Marlon Cabrera caught VisMinda’s defense flatfooted with his fastbreak layup, and Abuy connected on a triple to give Bayani a 99-92 lead.

VisMinda drilled its first basket in overtime on Ed Cosino’s jumper at the 3:06 mark of the overtime, but that was not enough to start a comeback, as luck was on Bayani’s side. Bayani recovered a lot of loose balls and offensive rebounds in the last three minutes of the overtime period and Delos Reyes nailed uncontested shots in the paint to preserve the win.

Delos Reyes led all scorers with his 30 points and had 12 rebounds. He had

New Zealand’s Barrett Franks (179), Adam Lee (228), Jamie Eccleton (309), Jaden Grinter (468), Takuma Ohashi (774), Ari Davis (841), Marco Comuzzo (994), and Chester Espie (1,655).

Of the 23 players on the list, only two players had met Heo. The CNMI netter defeated Davis in the third round before losing to Franks in the quarterfinals in the Air Pacific South Pacific Open Junior Championships 2009 in Fiji last month.

The other pool is composed of champion teams in the U.S.’ East, Southeast, Central, Southwest, and West divisions.

The Commonwealth bets will debut against Friuli Venezia Giulia LL of Italy this Sunday and then meet Aruba North LL Oranjestad on Monday. The CNMI will take a break on Tuesday before returning to action on Wednesday against Coquitlam LL Coquitlam of British Columbia. The Asia-Pacific champions’ last assignment will be Juan A. Bibiloni LL Yabucoa of Puerto Rico on Thursday.

The Top 2 placers in the two pools will advance to the crossover semifinals.

Athletes Commission.

World Cross Country Championships will be held every two years alternating with Area championships, while amendments to Article 13 of the IAAF Constitution will give the power to the IAAF Council to amend Chapter 5 of the IAAF Competition Rules (Technical). However, amendments shall be done in consultation with the IAAF expert Committees and Commissions.

The IAAF Athletes’ Commission is composed of 19 members, namely one chairperson; six members nominated for a four-year term by the IAAF Council; six athletes elected for a four-year term by their peers during the odd numbered Congresses; and six athletes elected for a four-year term by their peers during the even numbered Congresses.

eight points in overtime. Barbo also made a double-double, chipping in 21 markers and collaring 14 boards. Sanciango finished with 19 points, while the unheralded Cabrera added 13, making crucial free throws in the fourth period to keep Bayani afloat.

In the masters division, Boholanos held MDX to eight points in the first period and the former never looked back to cruise to a 15-point win.

Abuy paced Boholanos with 19 points, while Ariel Jinang contributed 14. Montano led MDX with 20 points.

In the semifinals, Boholanos will face Bayani-Shirley’s. The other semis pairing in the masters will have NMBA going up against Cabalen. In the open division, SIP will square off with NMBA, while pennant champion MDX will take on Bayani.

Masters

Boholanos 83 – Abuy 19, Jinang 14, Cosino 20, De La Torre 8, Salazar 6, Trajano 6, Pineda 6, Moran 5, Solidum 4, Dizon 3, Garcia 2.

MDX 68 –Montano 20, Malasarte 17, Samson 8, Moreno 7, Canedo 5, Ebuen 4, Pablo 3.

Scoring by quarters: 16-8, 36-21, 65-51, 83-68.

Open

Bayani 107 – Delos Reyes 30, Barbo 21, Sanciango 19, Cabrera 13, Aquino 11, Abuy 7, Ong 4, Lansang 2.

VisMinda 103 –Joyner 29, Peredo 16, Manalo 13, Artates 11, Mateo 10, Barrios 10, Cosino 6, Morales 5.

Scoring by quarters: 26-21, 47-44, 65-65, 92-92, 107-103 (OT).



Vick signs deal with Eagles

By halftime, the Linc was buzzing: Michael Vick was an Eagle.

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Saipan Tribune Sports

No A-Rod, no problem for Yankees

The Yankees keep rolling on, putting this one away before they even had a chance to miss A-Rod or Jorge Posada.

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

ITF points await Heo in Fiji

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

With Ji Hoon Heo favored in the 2009 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships, CNMI coach Jeff Race is expecting the Commonwealth netter to focus on the much tougher 2009 Oceania Closed Junior Championships.

"Vastly more important for Ji Hoon than winning the POJC is to do well the second week in the Oceania Closed ITF event," Race said in an e-mail sent to *Saipan Tribune* a day before he and seven other CNMI junior netters left for Fiji last Wednesday.

Race and the members of the CNMI Junior Team will reunite with Heo in Lautoka this weekend after the 17-year-old player spent weeks of training and joining tournaments in Noumea, New Caledonia last month.

Heo will be the Commonwealth and the North Pacific team's top bet in the boys' 18-and-under singles in the POJC, which will run from Aug. 17 to 22 at the Goodman Fielder International Regional Tennis Centre.



CNMI junior netter Ji Hoon Heo, left, poses with New Caledonia coach Philippe Poignon during a break in their training session in Noumea.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

After the POJC, Heo will be competing in the Oceania Closed tournament, which offers Junior ITF ranking points.

"This is a B2 event, offering nearly as many points as a Grand Slam junior event. To win one or two matches in the OCJC would provide a major boost to Ji Hoon's ITF Junior world rankings," Race said.

According to the Junior ITF website, a B2 event is a regional championship and awards 120 points to the champion, 80 to the runner-up, 60 to the semifinalists, 40 to quarterfinalists, 25 to losers in Round of 16, and 10 to Losers in Round of 32.

"This tournament may even put him up in the 400's. The keys to his success there are two-fold. One is to have a great performance and this is the element that he can control. Two is to get a good draw and this is just going to be luck. If he draws a top seed, he will be out early and will play in the consolation with no points involved," Race said.

The draw for the boys' 18-and-under singles in the Oceania Closed has yet to be released, but the 24 players have already been named. The tournament will have a 32-man draw in the

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Members of the CNMI Junior All-Stars pose for a group photo before the fundraising-raffle drawing for their World Series trip this year.

CNMI Junior All-Stars leave for World Series

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI Junior All-Stars left Saipan yesterday morning to represent the Commonwealth and the Asia-Pacific Region to the World Series in Taylor, Michigan.

The team is composed of Christian Mizer, Jeremy and Henry Rabauliman, Lamarc

Iguel, Frankie Camacho, Ricardo Dela Cruz, Aldelbert Lizama, Brian Camacho, Alan Aguon, Jared Sablan, Patrick Tenorio, Arthur Jebehn, and Poland Masaharu. Joining them in Michigan are coaches Oliver Secharmidal and Bernard Cabrera and team manager Thelma Mizer.

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Bayani, Boholanos complete semis cast

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Bayani and Boholanos took separate routes to the semifinals of the 7th United Filipino Organization Inter-Organizational Basketball League, recording contrasting playoff wins last



Thursday night at the JP Center Basketball Court.

The University of Loyola and Raffy's Diner-supported Boholanos had a cruise control en route

to an easy 83-68 win over MDX-Armatech in the masters division. In the open division, Bayani took the long way to the semifinals, as it needed five more minutes to oust Vis-Minda in a hotly contested playoff match, 107-103.

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Spectators watch Bayani's Darwin Barbo trapped at the sideline by VisMinda's JR Barrios, center, and Jawn Joyner, left, during their playoff game in the open division of the UFO caging last Thursday at the JP Center Basketball Court.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO



WWW.IAAF.ORG

Members of the IAAF Council lead the 47th IAAF Congress held in Berlin, Germany last week.

IAAF bars false start in track meets

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

A major rule change was made during the 47th IAAF Congress in Berlin, Germany last week, barring false start in International Association of Athletics Federation-sanctioned tournaments.

According to Northern Marianas Athletics president Kurt Barnes, who attended the Congress on Aug. 12 and 13, anyone

committing a false start will be disqualified.

"The major rule change as voted on by Congress was no false starts will be tolerated. In the rules before, a race was allowed one false start with no penalty, but any false starts after called for the disqualification of the false starter," Barnes said in an e-mail to *Saipan Tribune*.

"Now the rule reads that anyone committing a false start

shall be disqualified. The reason is two-fold. First, the IAAF felt that some athletes were committing the initial false start to place added stress to competing athletes. IAAF wanted to eliminate this situation. Second, it will speed up track meets for

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